



# Chapter 10: The Philosopher's Stone



230  
38

HMH...IT'S  
NOT AS  
IF THE  
LIBRARY'S  
GOING TO  
RUN AWAY.

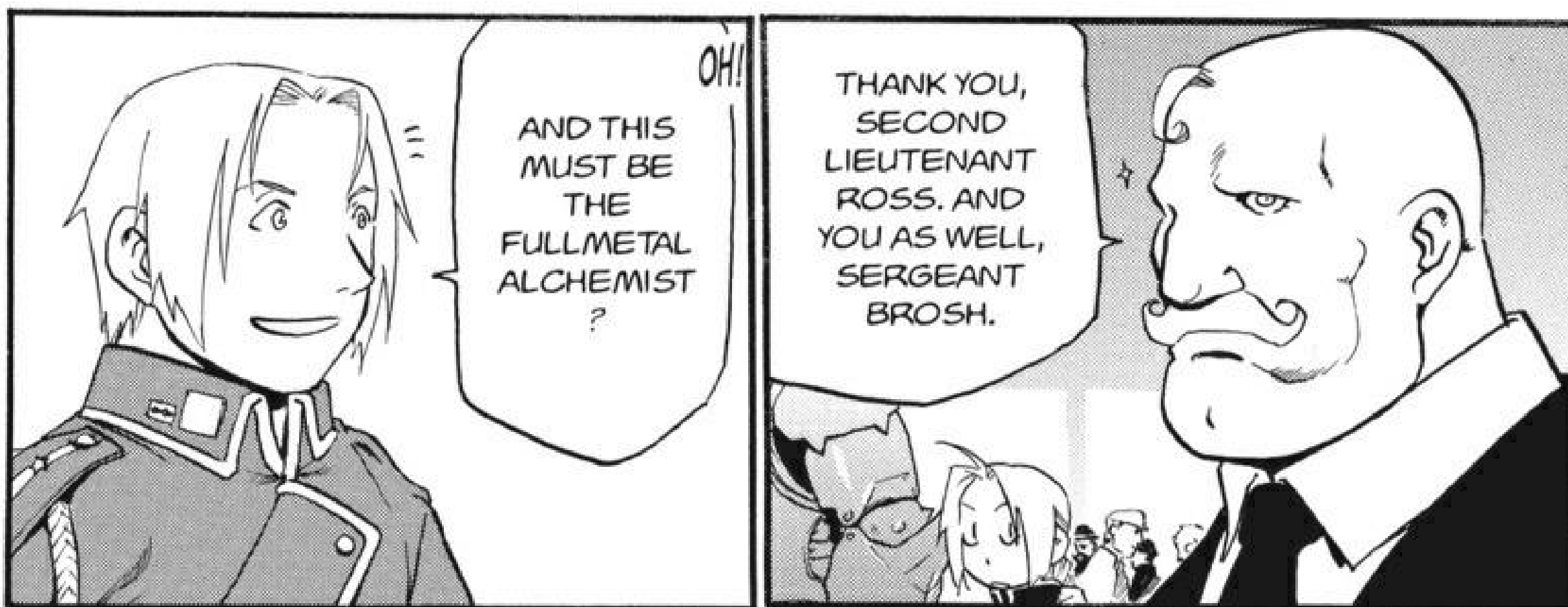
JUST  
HURRY  
UP AND  
COME  
ON!

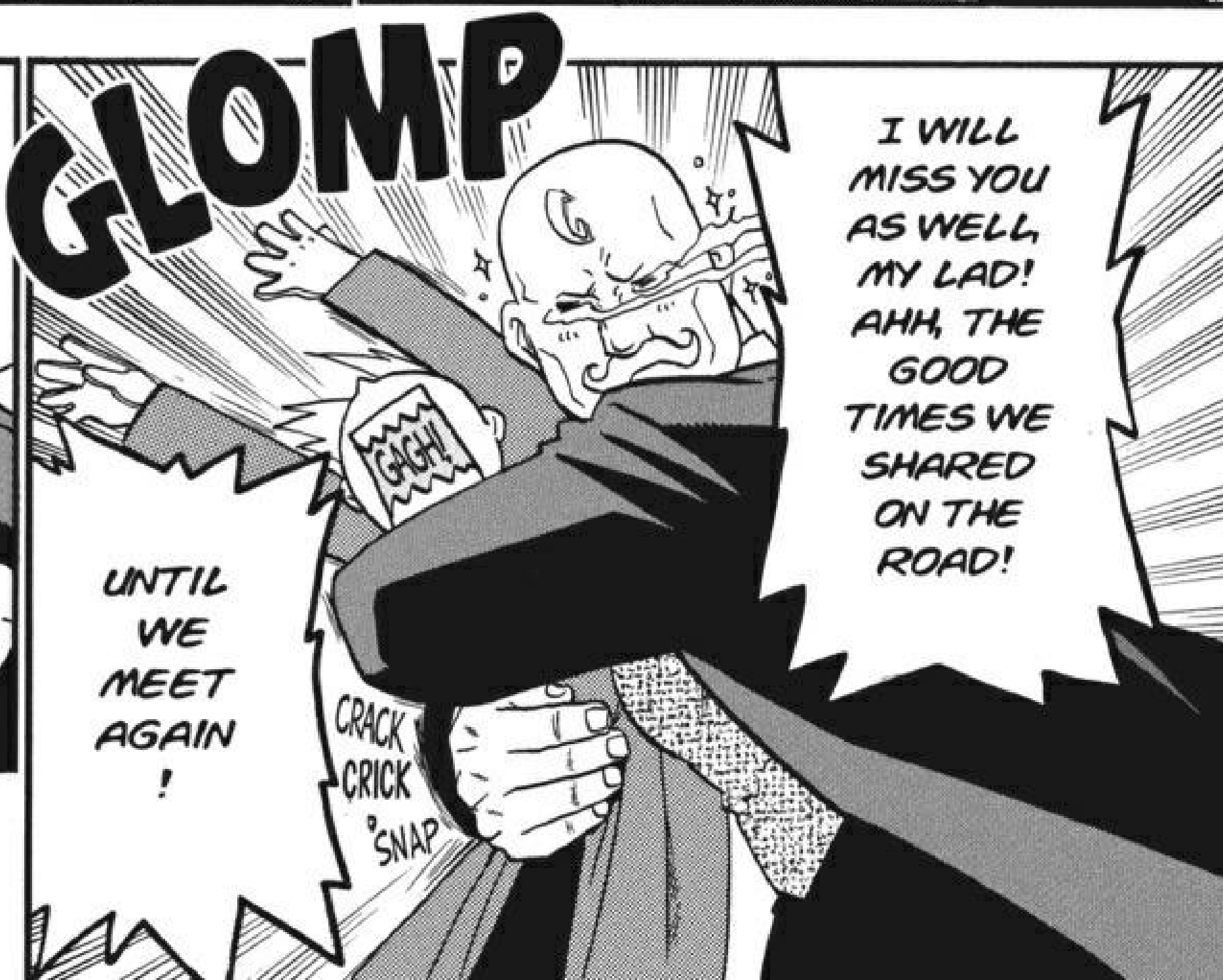
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
IN SUCH A  
RUSH, BIG  
BROTHER..

HURRY  
UP,  
AL!

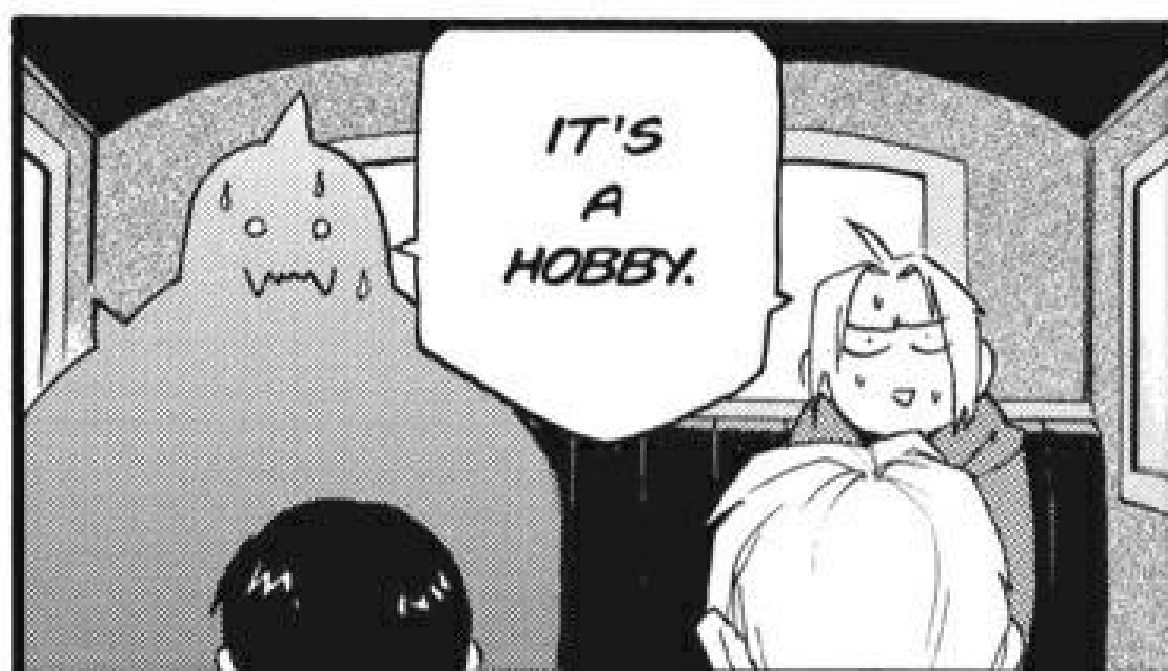
WE'RE  
FINALLY  
IN  
CENTRAL  
!!

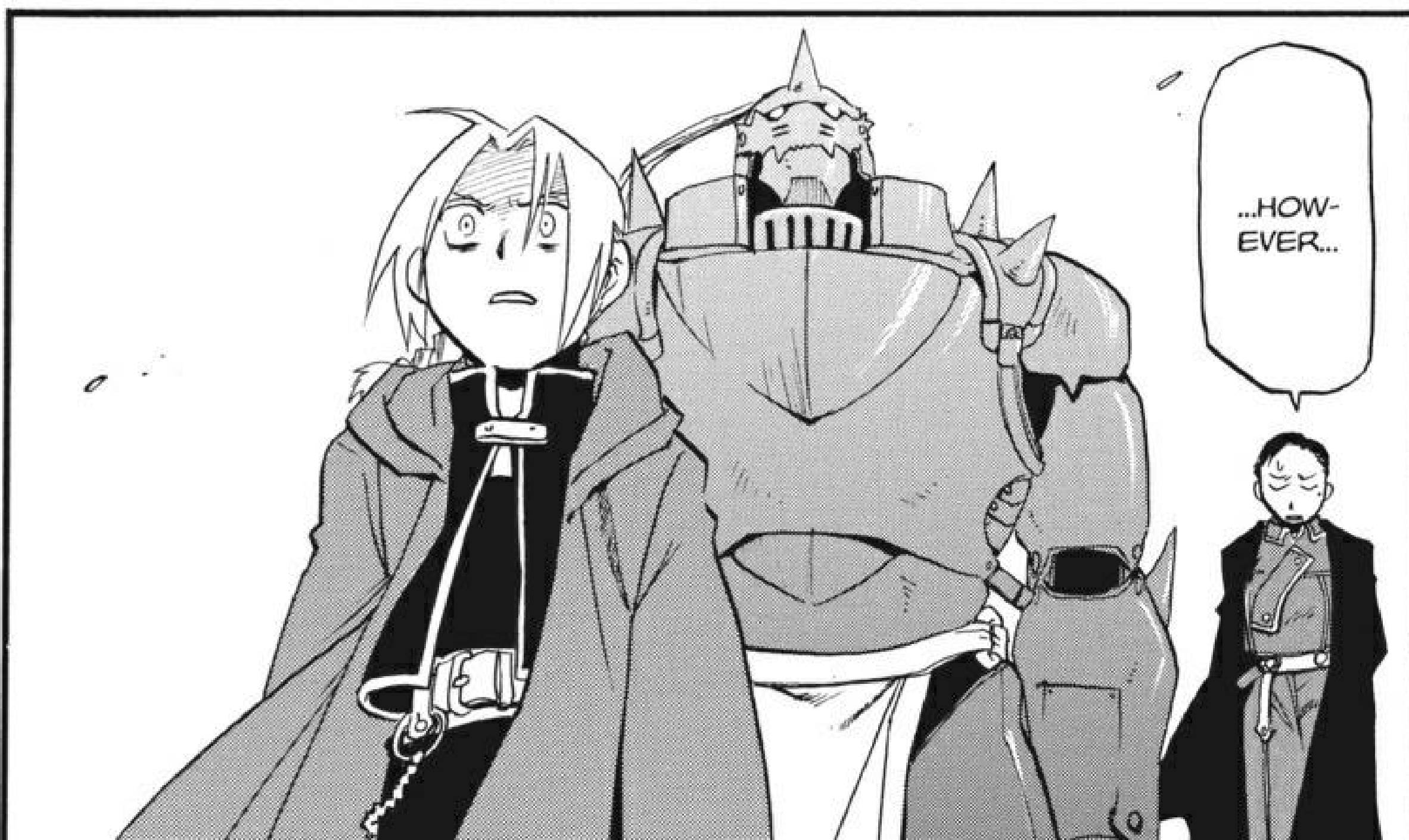
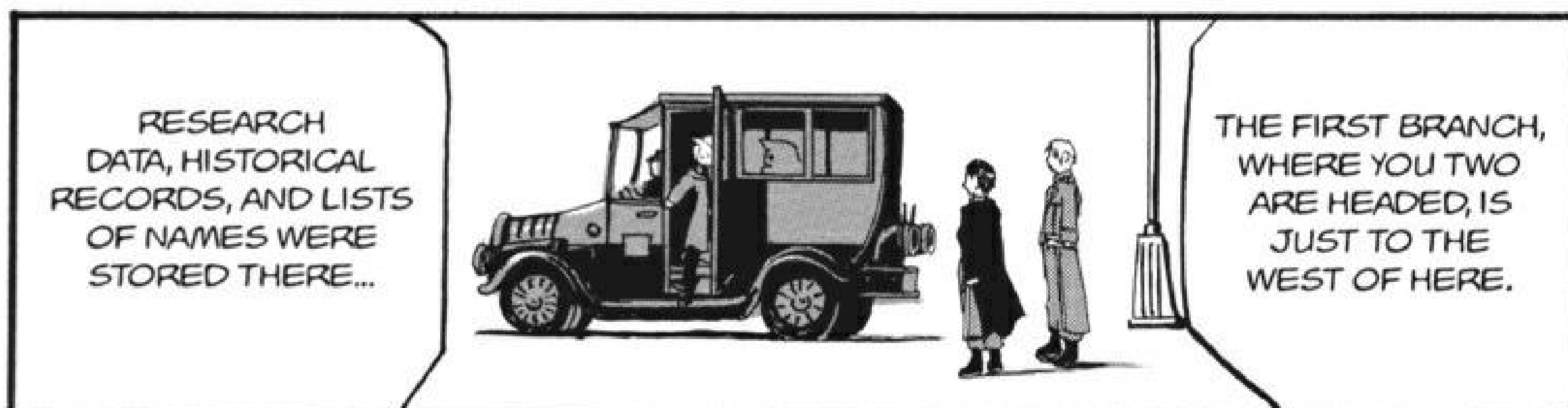


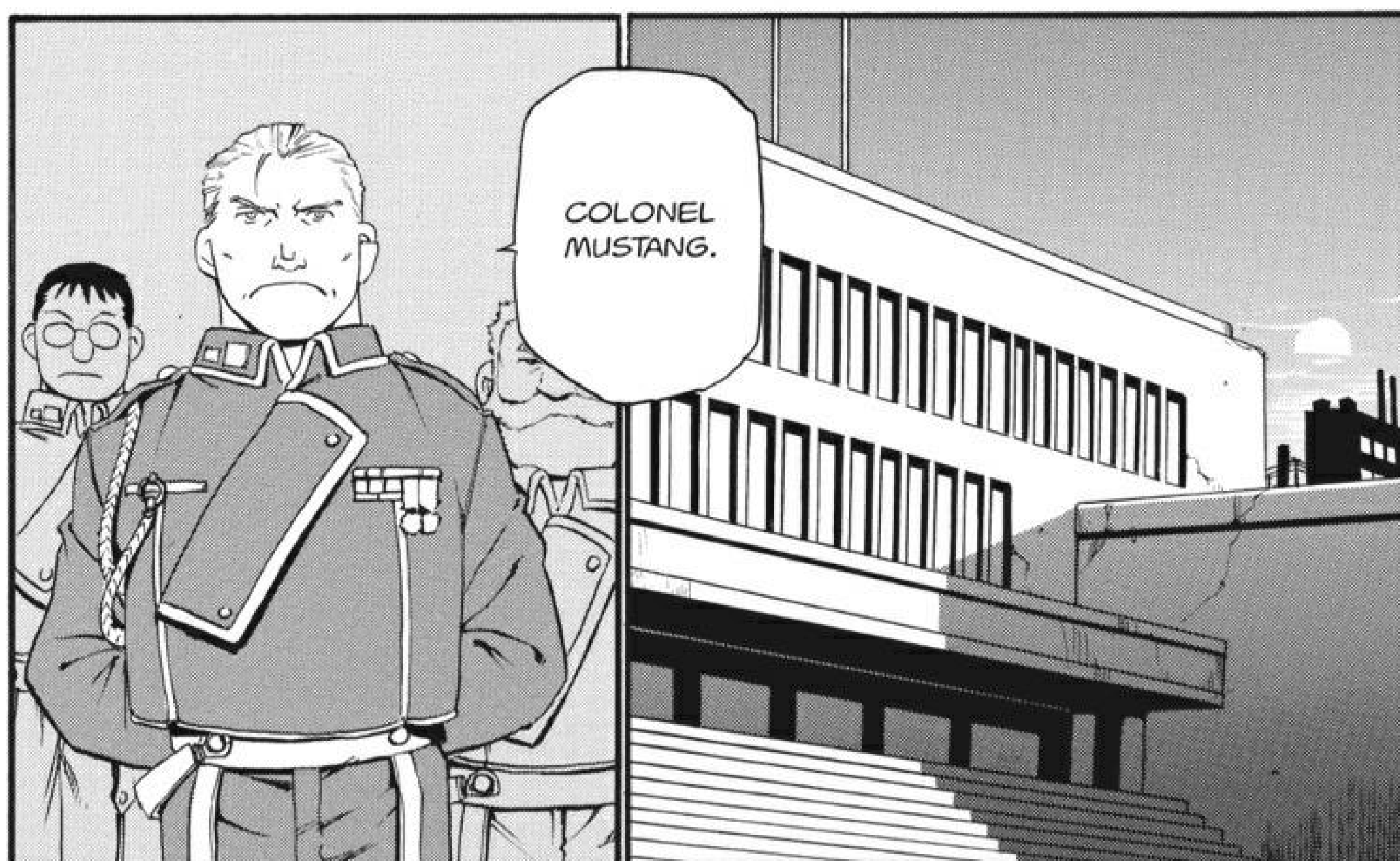
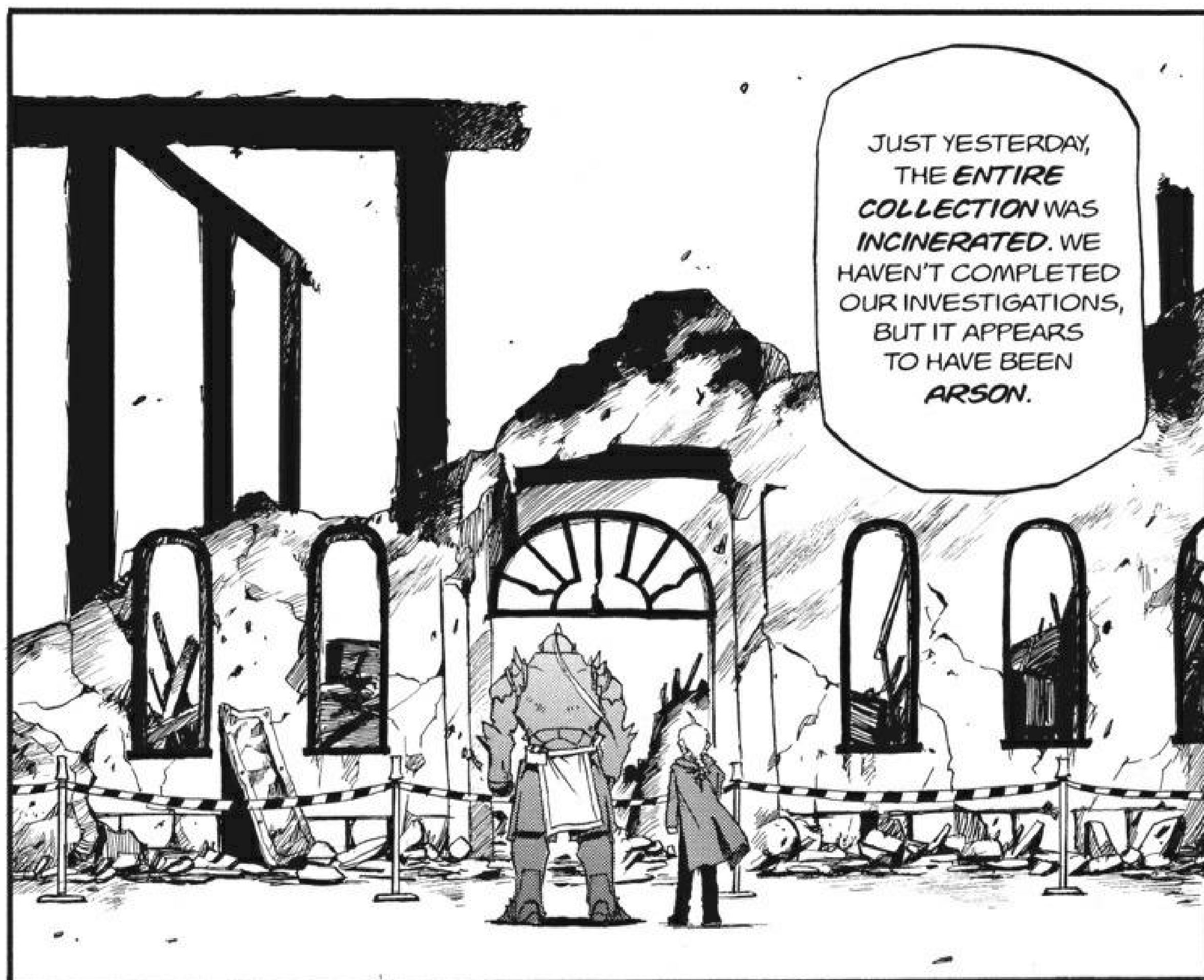


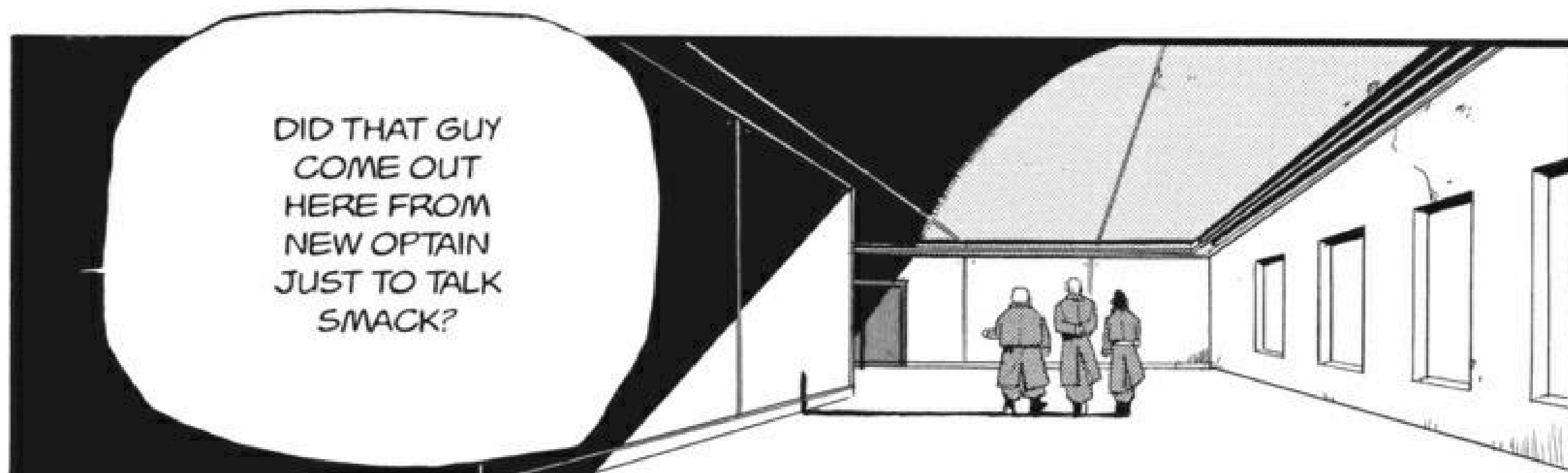
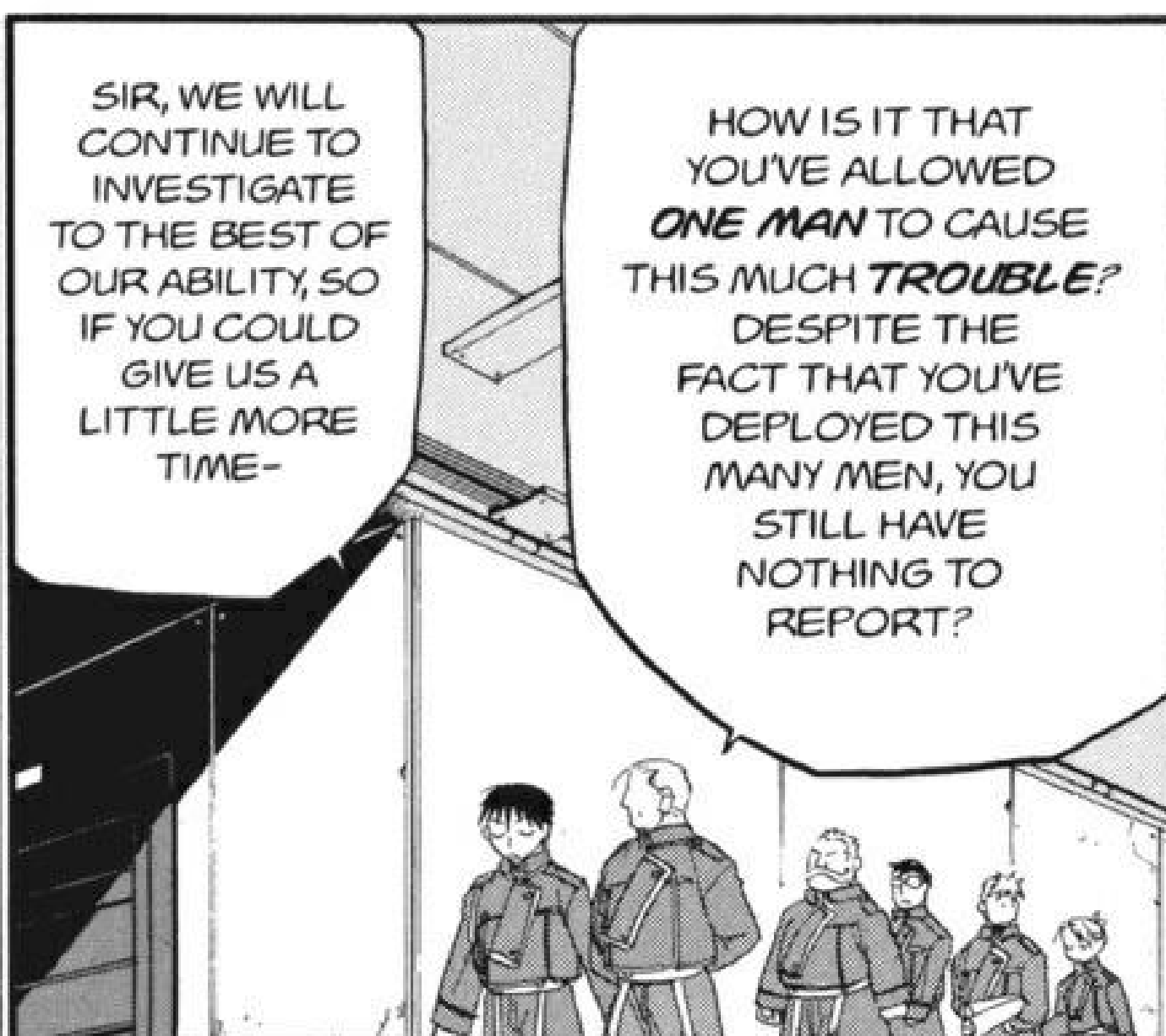






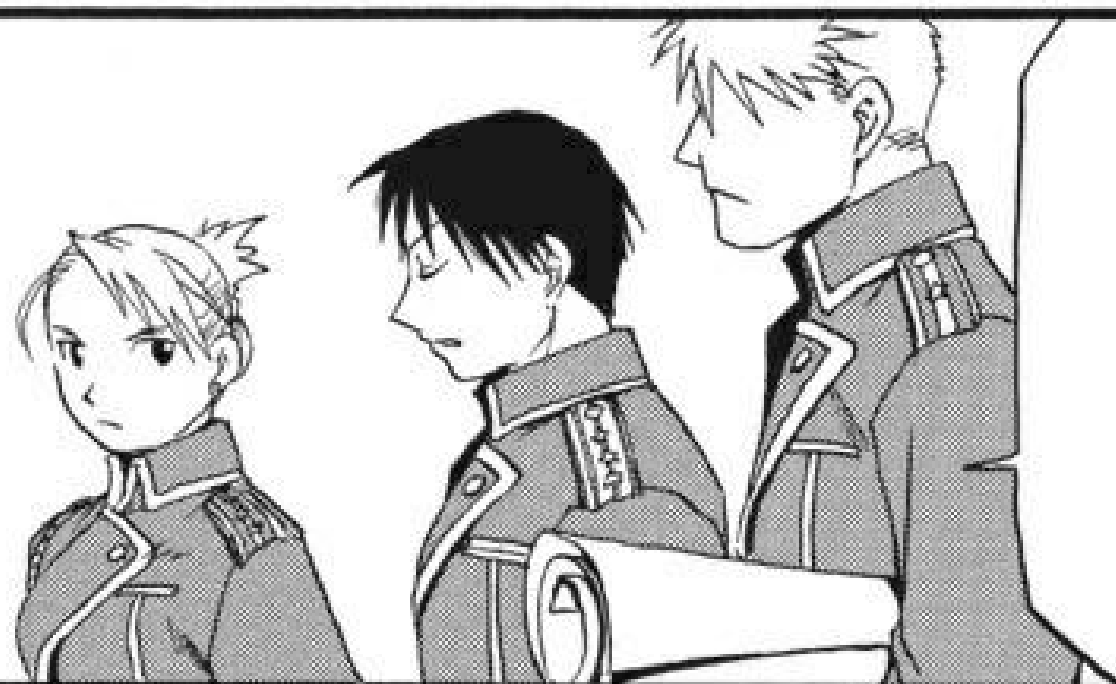








NOW HE'S PARANOID  
THAT I'M GOING TO  
TAKE HIS POSITION  
ONE DAY. DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT IT.



HE'S JUST  
**BITTER** THAT  
A YOUNGSTER  
LIKE ME HAS  
REACHED THE  
RANK OF  
COLONEL.

PLUS, IF AN  
INCIDENT THAT  
HAS BEEN GIVING  
EVEN **CENTRAL**  
TROUBLE IS TAKEN  
CARE OF **HERE**,  
THEN THAT WILL  
MAKE **ME**  
LOOK GOOD.



THE SPROUTS  
OF FUTURE  
UNREST MUST  
BE PULLED  
BEFORE  
THEY CAN  
TAKE ROOT.

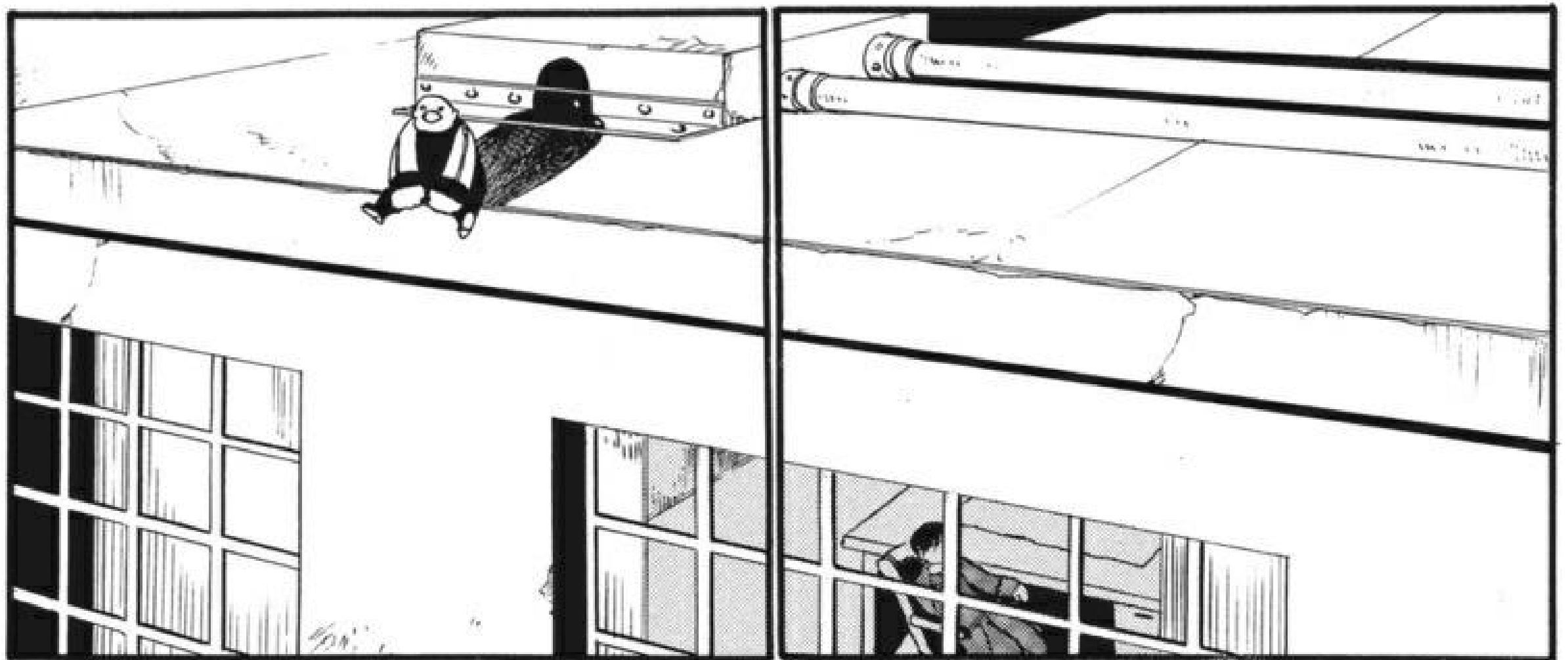
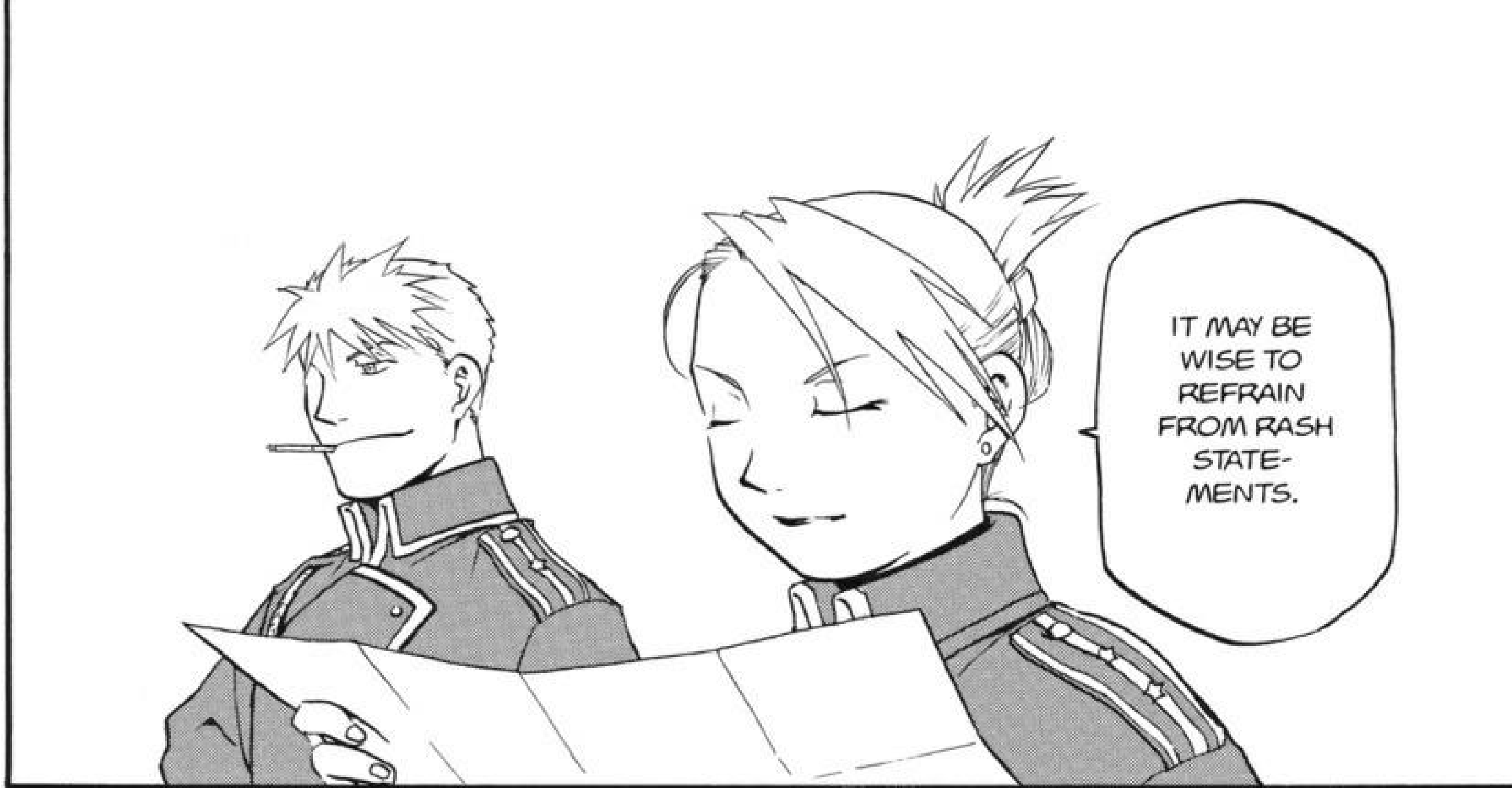
BUT I DO  
WANT TO  
TAKE CARE OF  
THIS SCAR  
INCIDENT JUST  
AS QUICKLY  
AS HE DOES.



UNTIL THE  
DAY THAT I  
BECOME  
**PRESIDENT**  
AND GAIN  
**COMPLETE**  
**MILITARY**  
**POWER.**

"OUT OF  
CRISIS  
COMES  
OPPOR-  
TUNITY."

I WILL  
DO  
**ANYTHING**  
THAT WILL  
HELP  
IN MY  
PROMO-  
TION...





THE FULLMETAL  
BOY FIGURED  
OUT THAT THE DATA  
FOR THE  
PHILOSOPHER'S  
STONE WAS  
HIDDEN IN THE  
FIRST BRANCH, SO  
I WENT THERE  
BEFORE HIM  
AND  
**DESTROYED**  
IT.

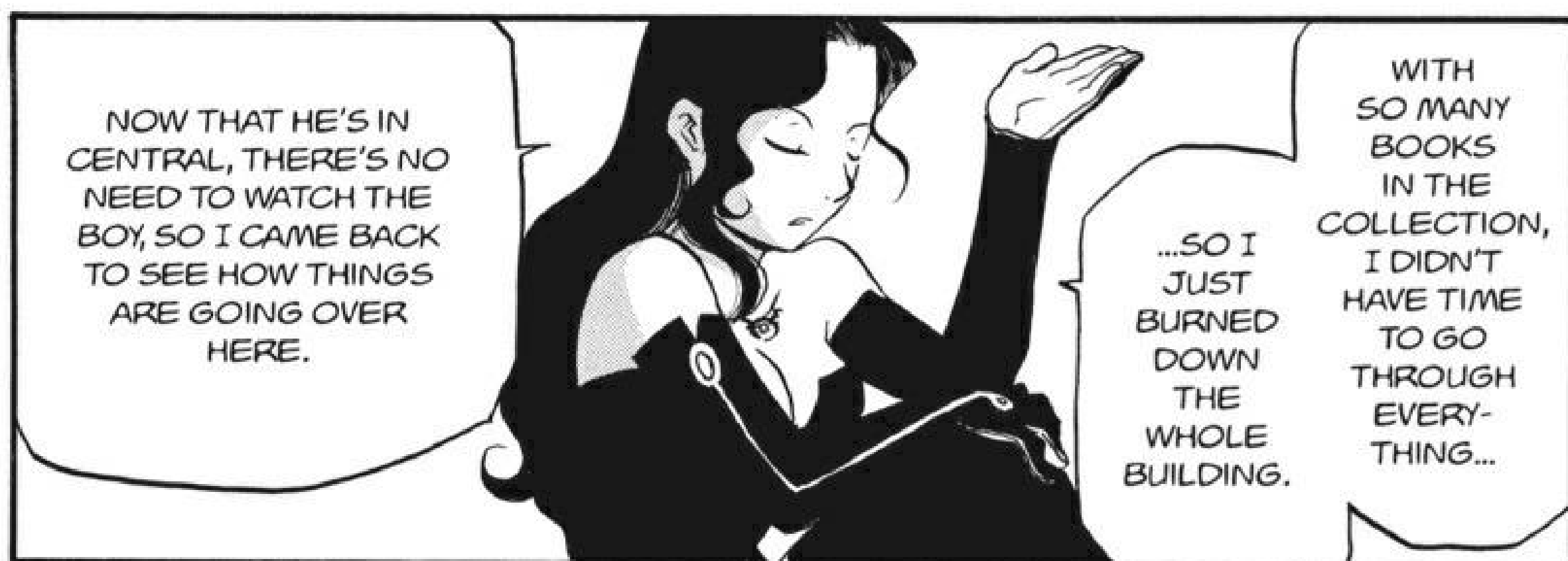
NOPE.  
HE'S  
NOT  
CLOSE  
BY.

HOW  
WAS  
YOUR  
TRIP?



ANY  
SIGN  
OF  
SCAR  
?

WELCOME  
BACK,  
LUST.



NOW THAT HE'S IN  
CENTRAL, THERE'S NO  
NEED TO WATCH THE  
BOY, SO I CAME BACK  
TO SEE HOW THINGS  
ARE GOING OVER  
HERE.

...SO I  
JUST  
BURNED  
DOWN  
THE  
WHOLE  
BUILDING.

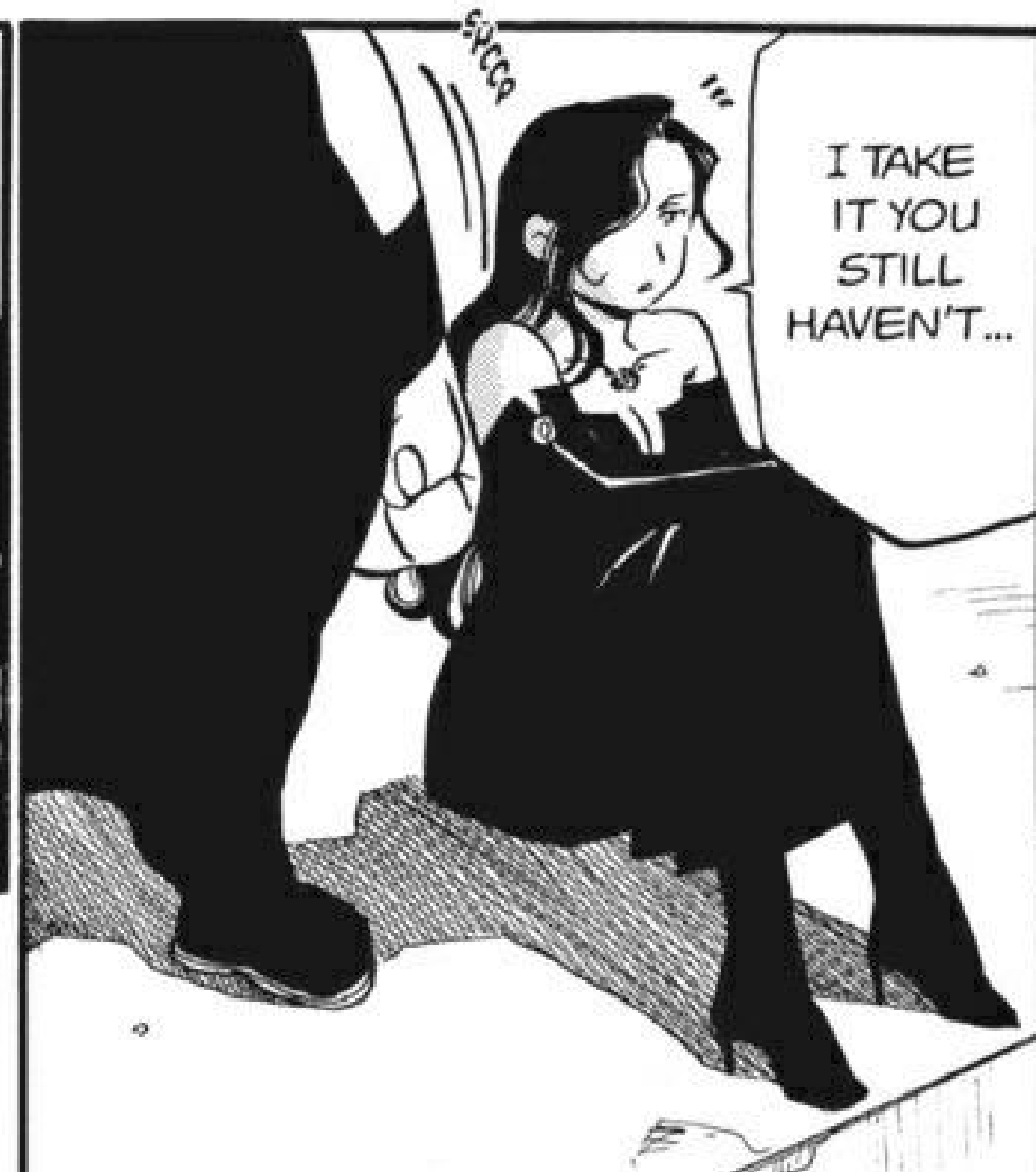
WITH  
SO MANY  
BOOKS  
IN THE  
COLLECTION,  
I DIDN'T  
HAVE TIME  
TO GO  
THROUGH  
EVERY-  
THING...



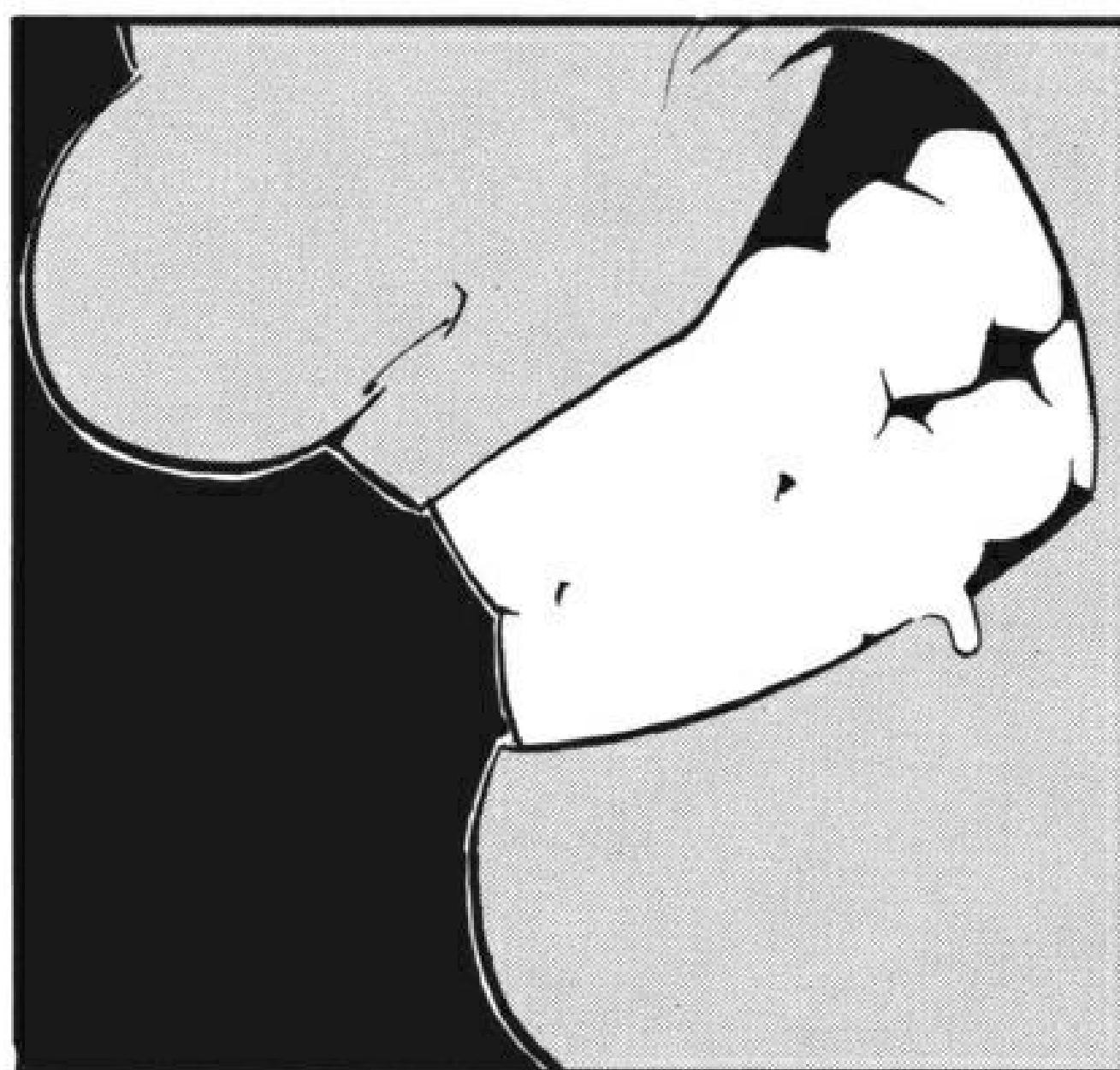
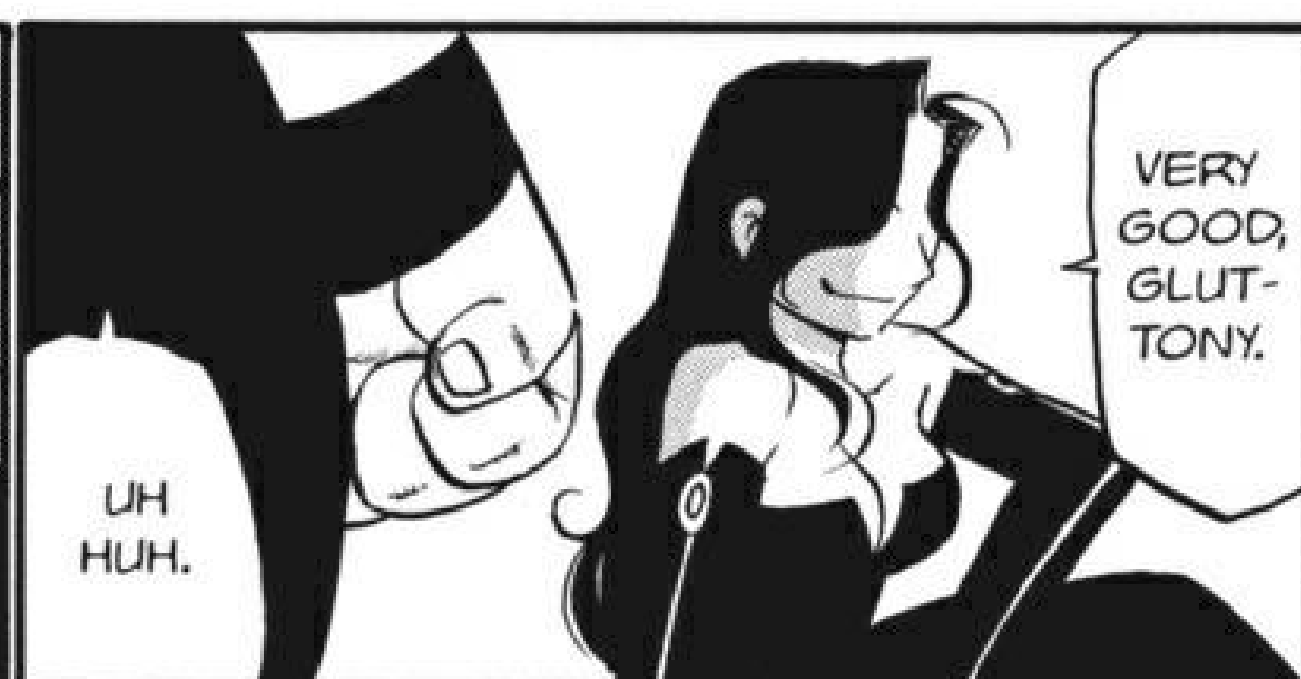
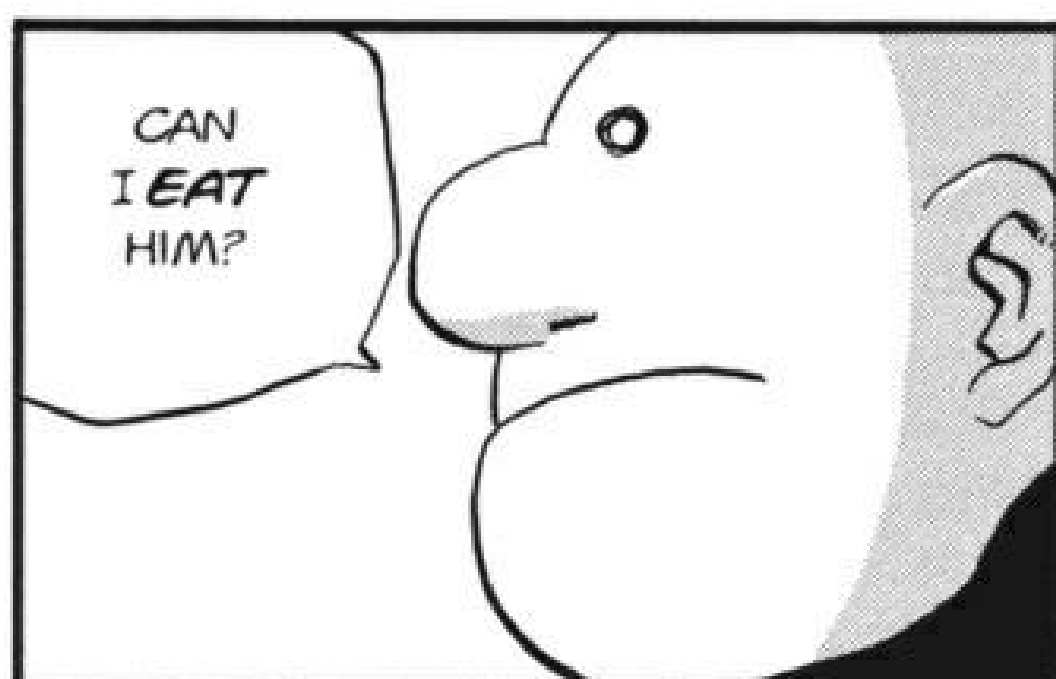
I  
SMELL  
HIM  
!  
I  
SMELL  
HIM  
!



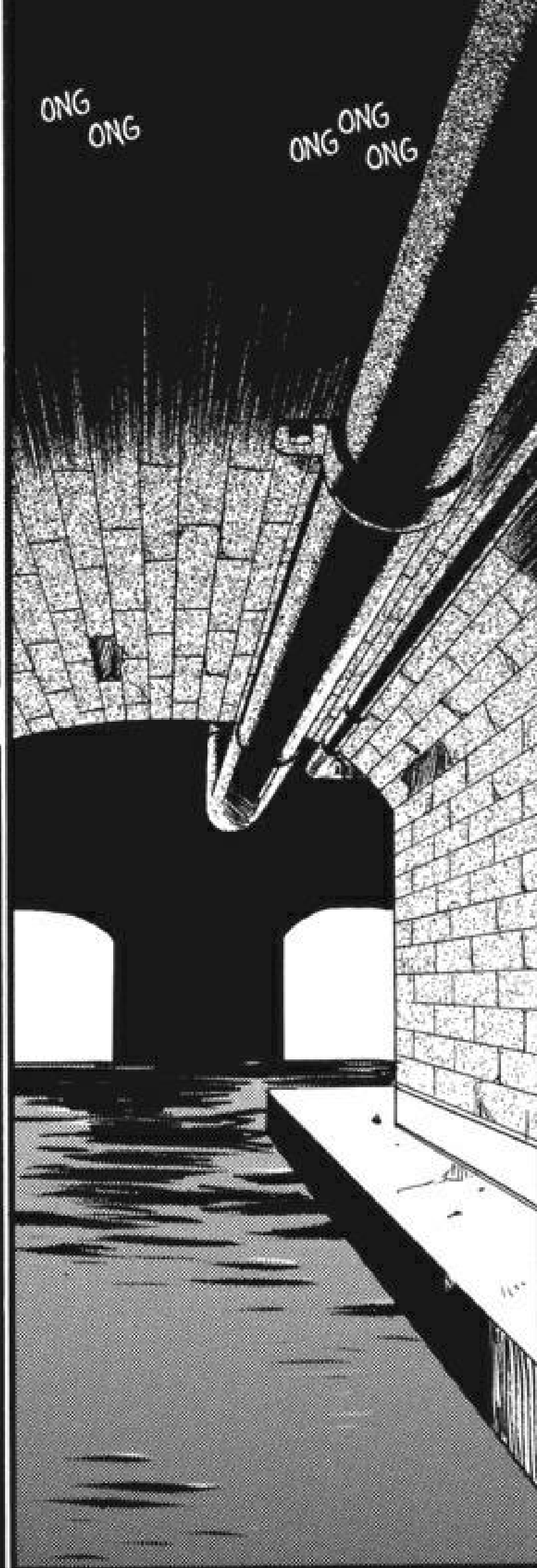
GLUT-  
TONY  
?

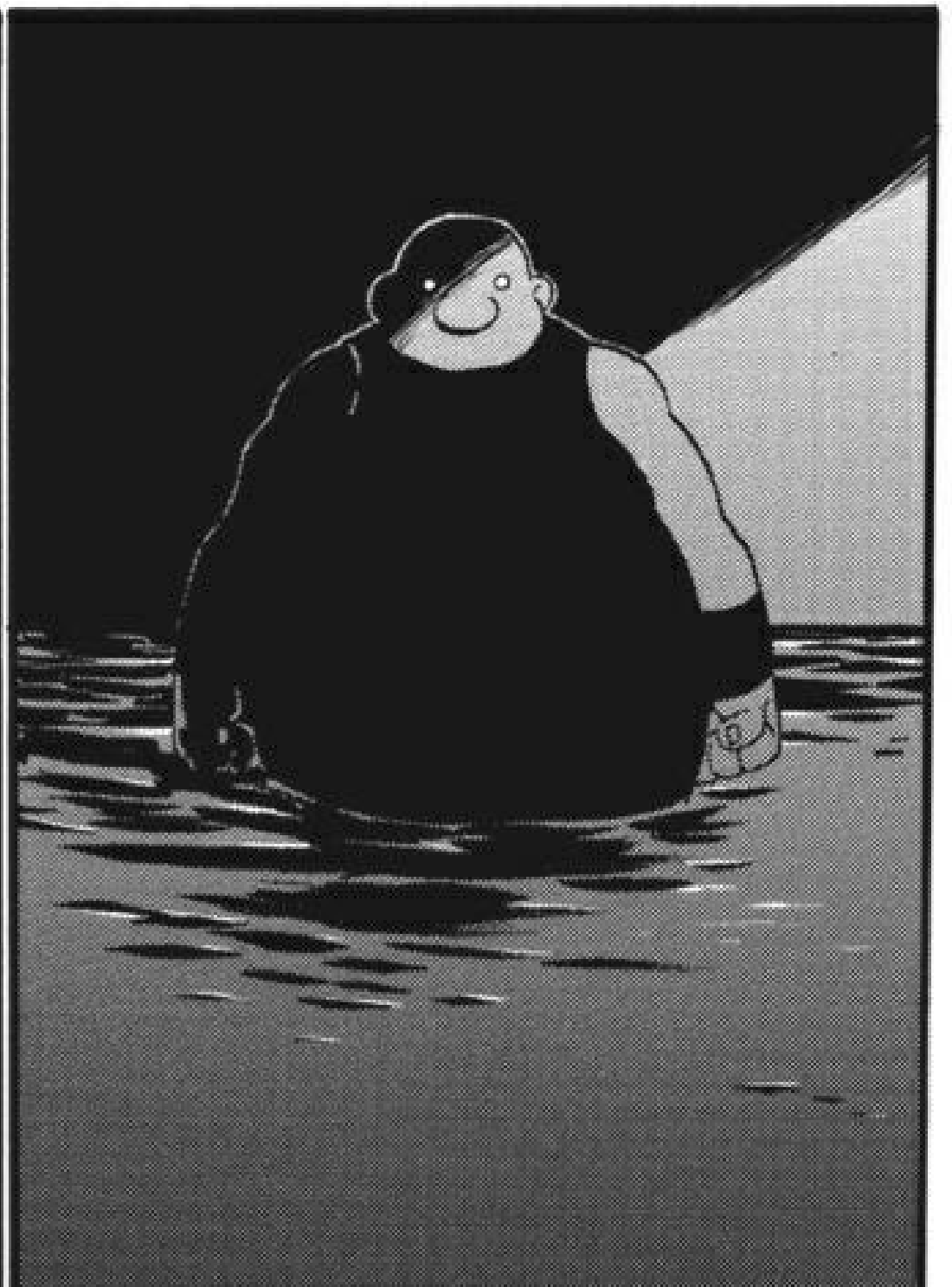
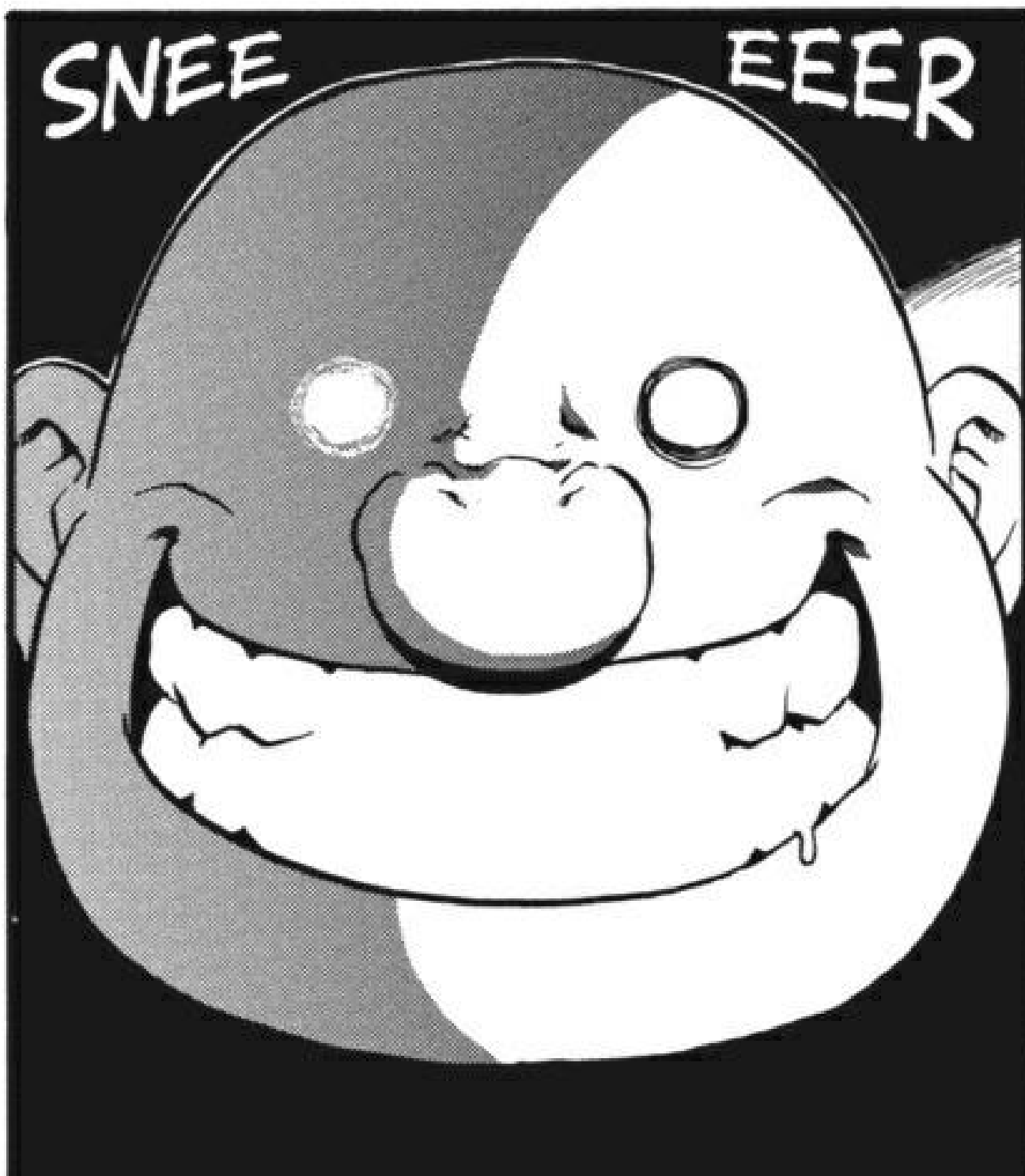


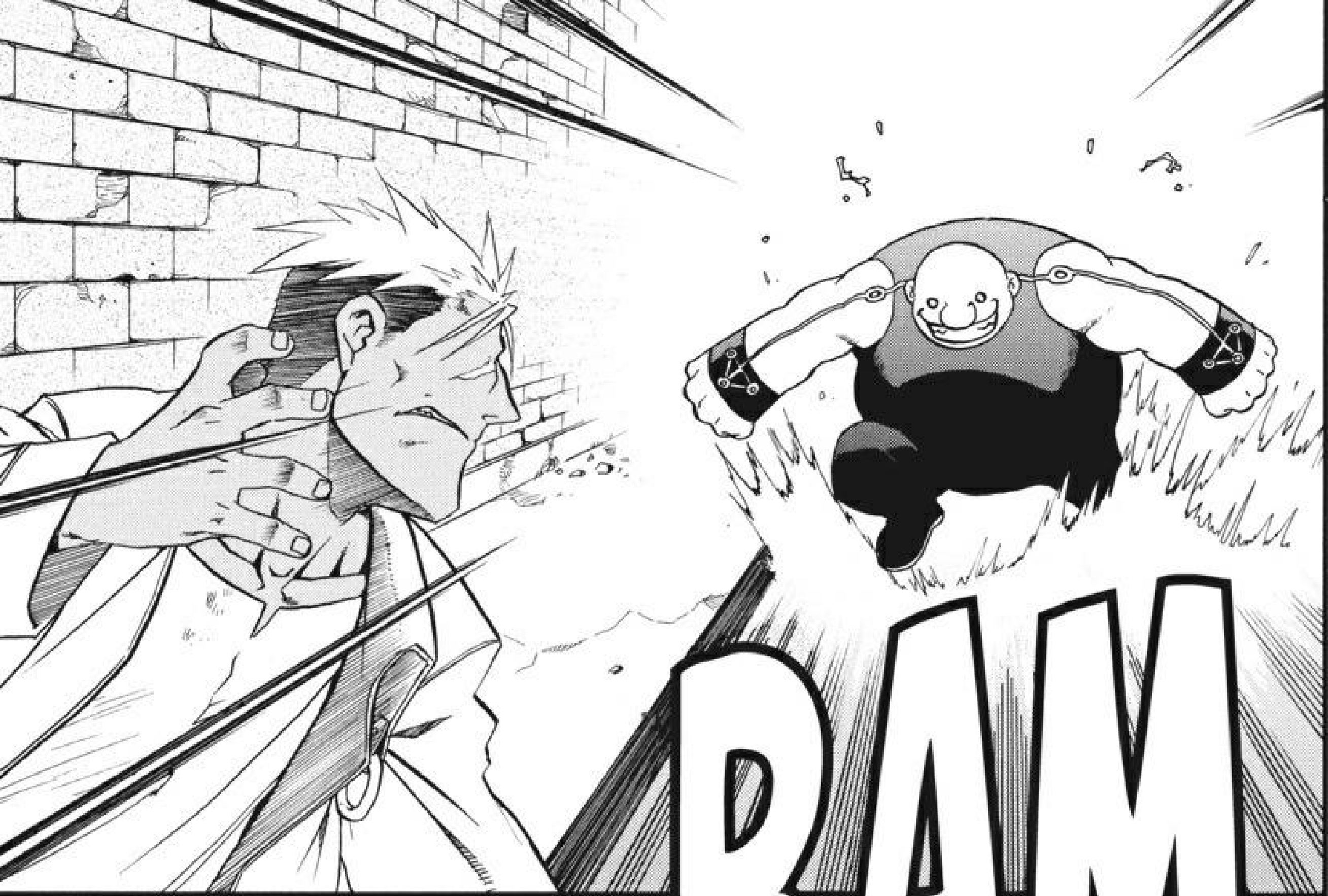
I TAKE  
IT YOU  
STILL  
HAVEN'T...





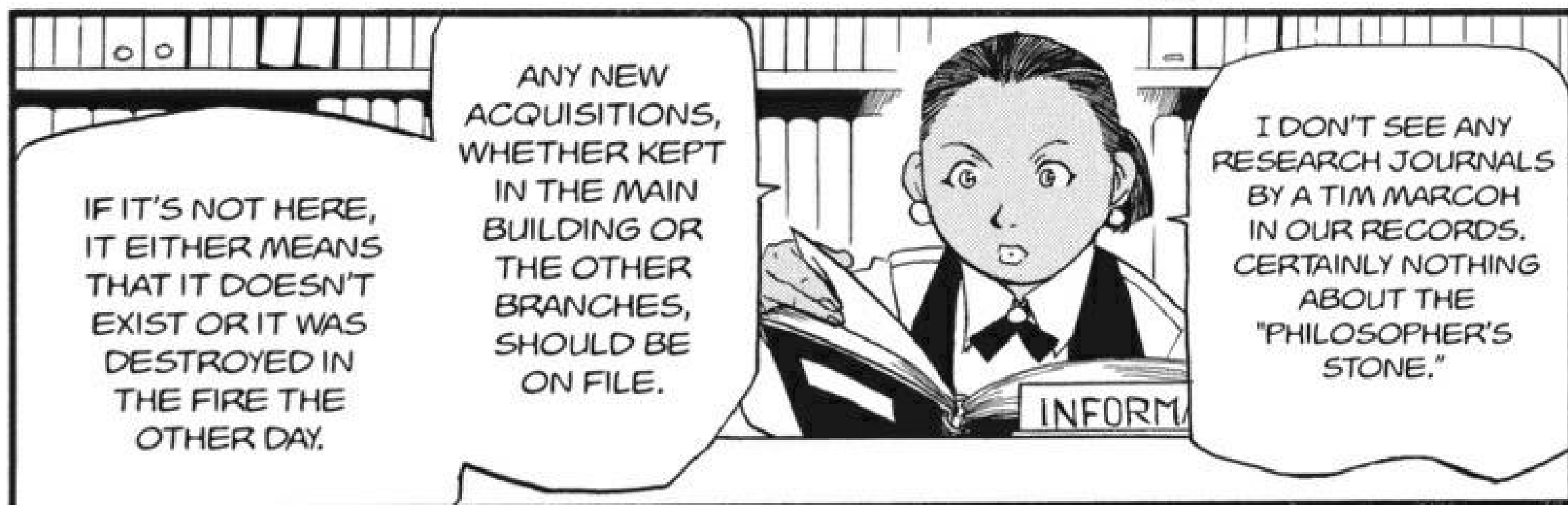








TIM  
MARCOH...  
LET'S  
SEE...



IF IT'S NOT HERE,  
IT EITHER MEANS  
THAT IT DOESN'T  
EXIST OR IT WAS  
DESTROYED IN  
THE FIRE THE  
OTHER DAY.

ANY NEW  
ACQUISITIONS,  
WHETHER KEPT  
IN THE MAIN  
BUILDING OR  
THE OTHER  
BRANCHES,  
SHOULD BE  
ON FILE.

I DON'T SEE ANY  
RESEARCH JOURNALS  
BY A TIM MARCOH  
IN OUR RECORDS.  
CERTAINLY NOTHING  
ABOUT THE  
"PHILOSOPHER'S  
STONE."

INFORM



HEY,  
ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT  
?

DO WE  
LOOK  
ALL  
RIGHT?

THANK  
YOU  
FOR  
YOUR  
HELP...



DOO OOM

UH...  
HELLO  
?



SHE'S A  
REAL  
**BOOK-  
WORM.**

YOU  
COULD  
SAY  
THAT...



OH  
YEAH  
!

YOU KNOW,  
THE GIRL  
WHO USED  
TO WORK AT  
THE FIRST  
BRANCH...

HEY!  
SHESKA  
MIGHT  
KNOW  
SOME-  
THING.



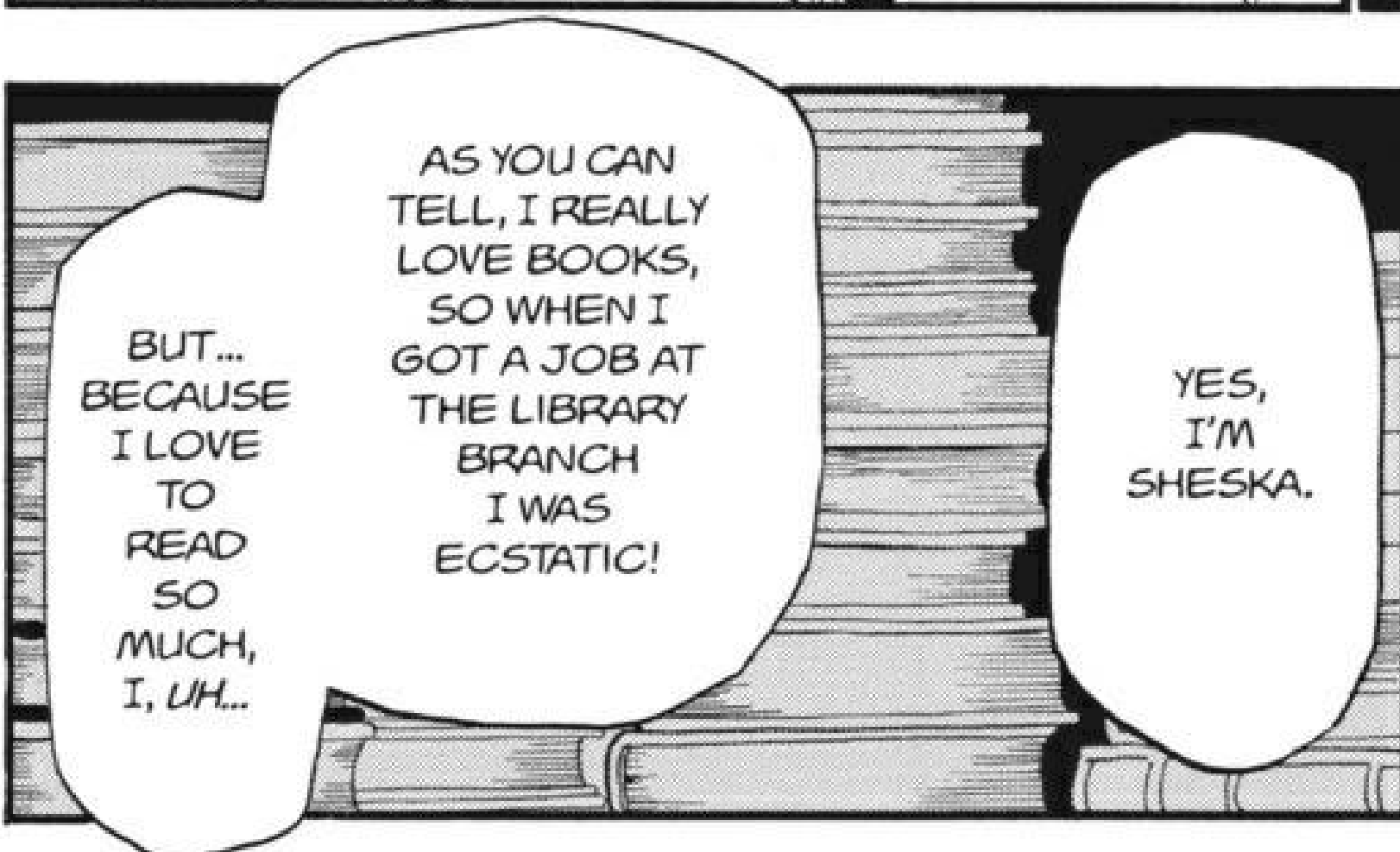
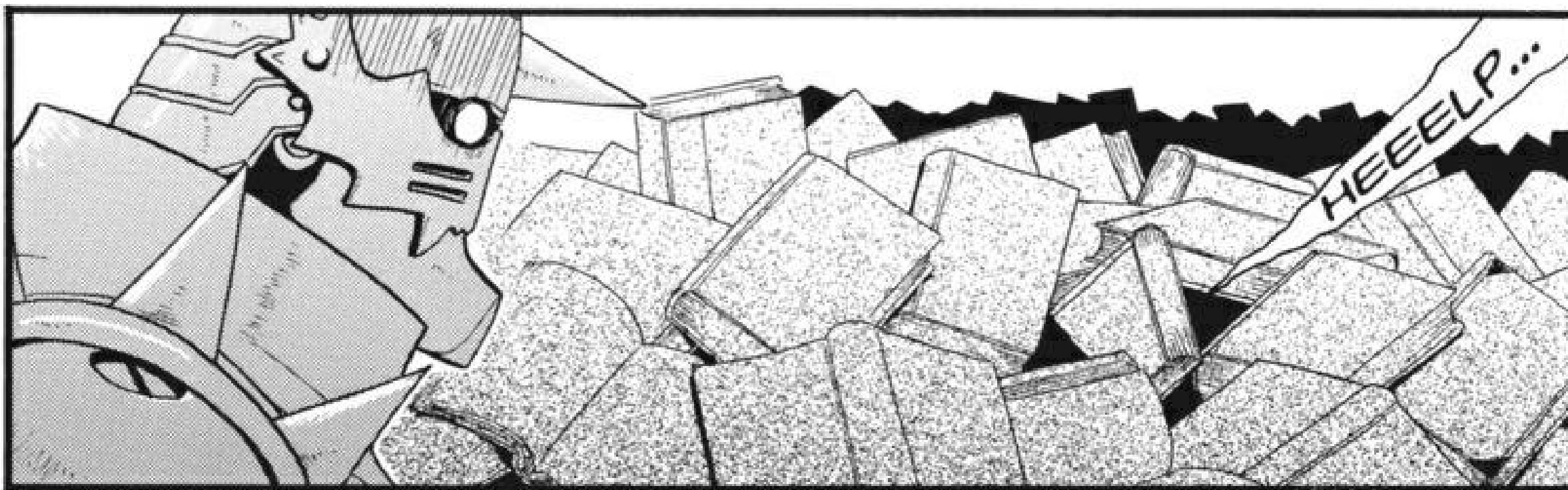
WHO'S THAT?  
SOMEONE WHO  
KNEW A LOT  
ABOUT THE  
BOOKS AT THAT  
BRANCH?

WOULD  
YOU  
LIKE  
TO  
MEET  
HER?

I  
COULD  
LOOK  
UP  
SHESKA'S  
ADDRESS  
FOR  
YOU.









I WOULD FORGET THAT I WAS WORKING AND LOSE MYSELF IN THE BOOKS. THAT'S WHY I WAS FIRED.



IS SHE REALLY ALL RIGHT... ?

IT'S TRUE. I'M THE MOST **USELESS** PERSON IN THE WORLD! THE **SCUM OF SOCIETY!**

SOB  
SOB  
SOB  
SOB  
SOB  
SOB  
SOB

I'M NO GOOD AT ANYTHING BUT READING, SO NO MATTER WHERE I GO, I CAN NEVER KEEP A JOB.



I NEED TO WORK HARD SO I CAN PUT MY SICK MOTHER IN A BETTER HOSPITAL, BUT...



DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SOME RESEARCH DOCUMENTS BY TIM MARCOH?

UH... I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU ONE QUESTION.

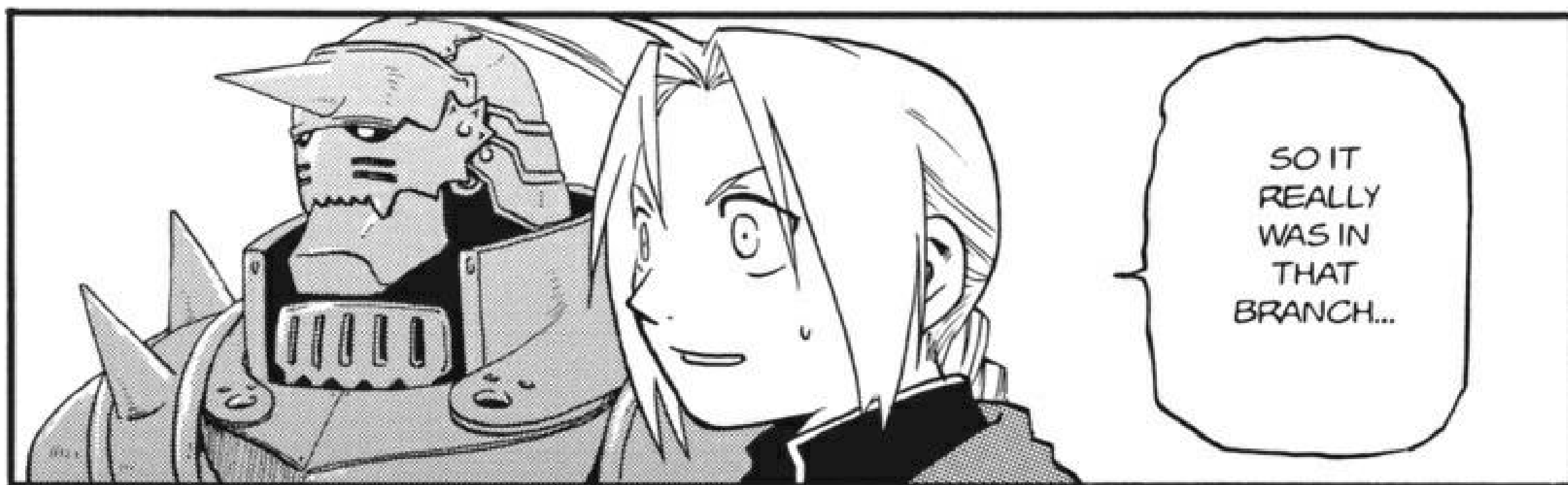


HIS NOTES WERE THE ONLY HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENTS AMONG ALL THE PRINTED BOOKS. SOMEONE HAD FILED THEM INCORRECTLY, SO I REMEMBER THEM QUITE WELL!

YES! I REMEMBER.



TIM MARCOH... MARCOH...

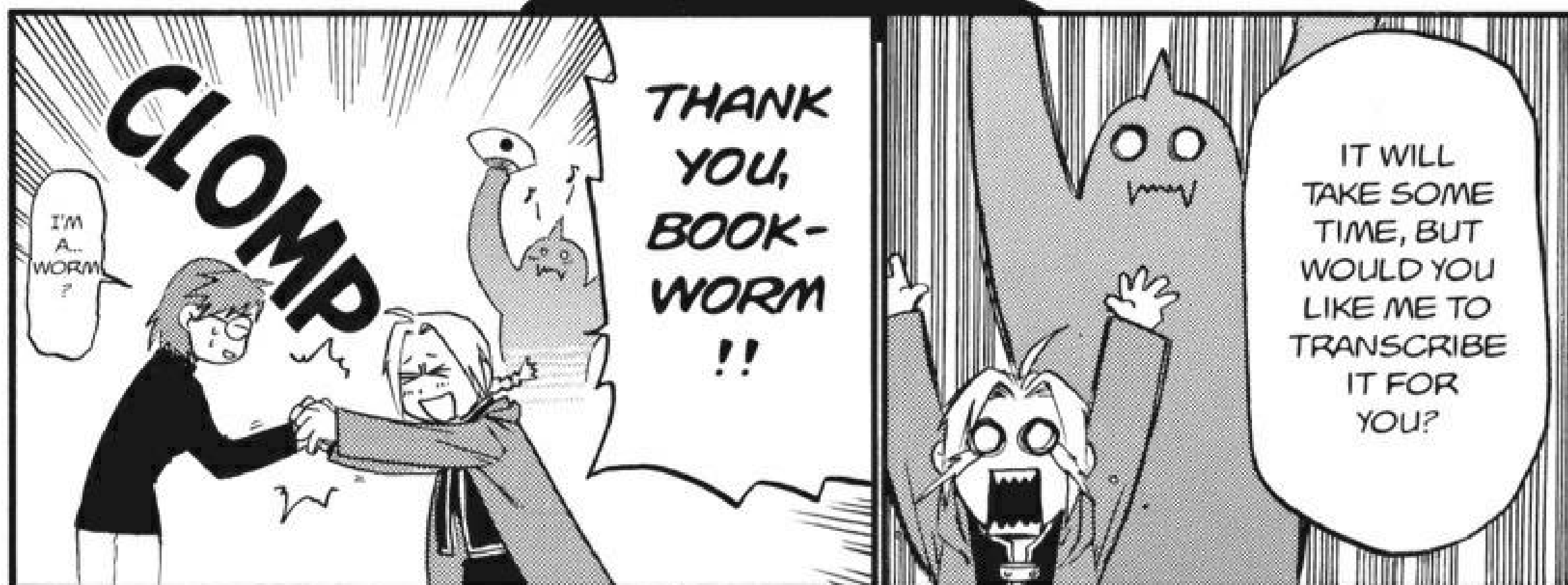




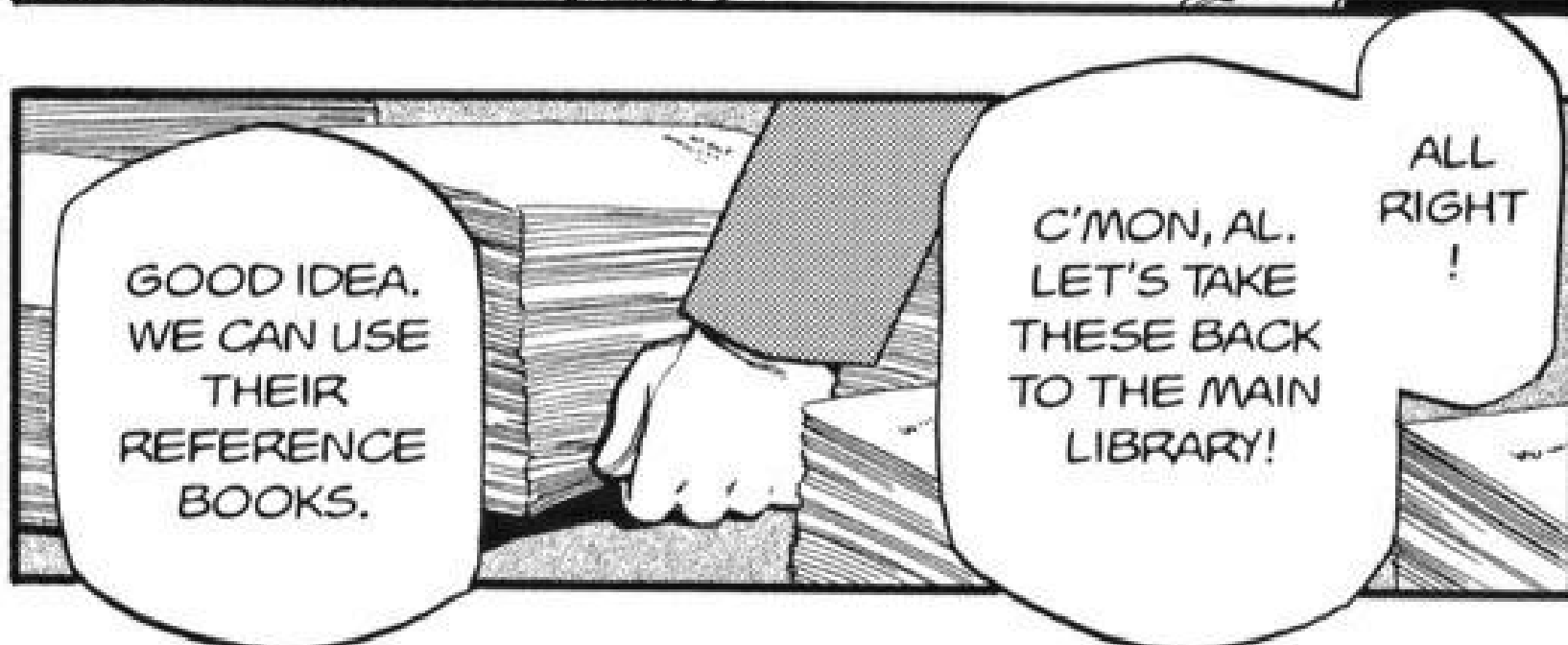
DING!

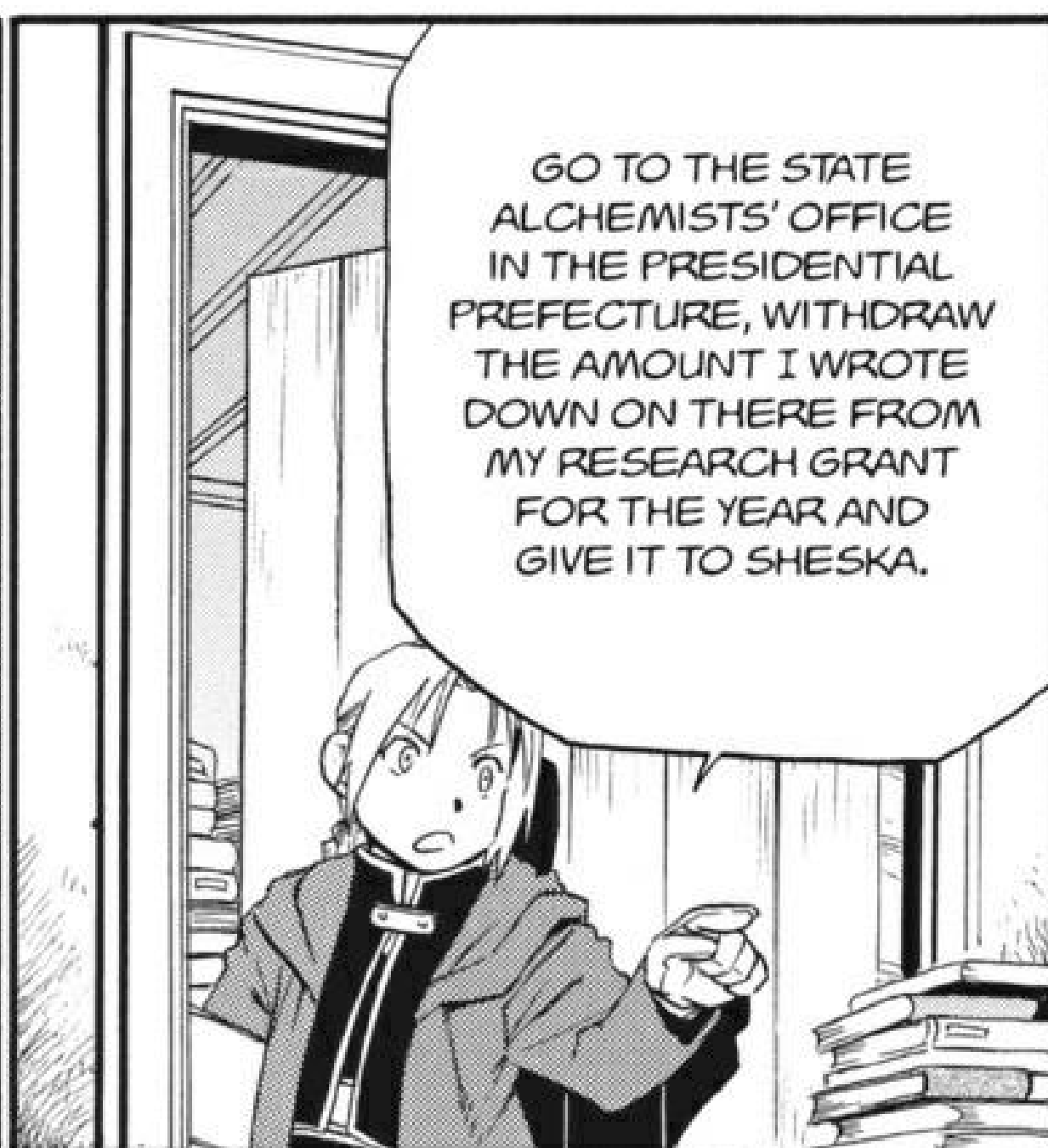
EVERY  
WORD,  
EVERY  
PHRASE,  
WITHOUT  
ERROR!

I HAVE A  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
MEMORY.**  
ALL I HAVE TO  
DO IS READ  
SOMETHING  
**ONCE**, AND I  
CAN RECALL  
**EVERYTHING.**

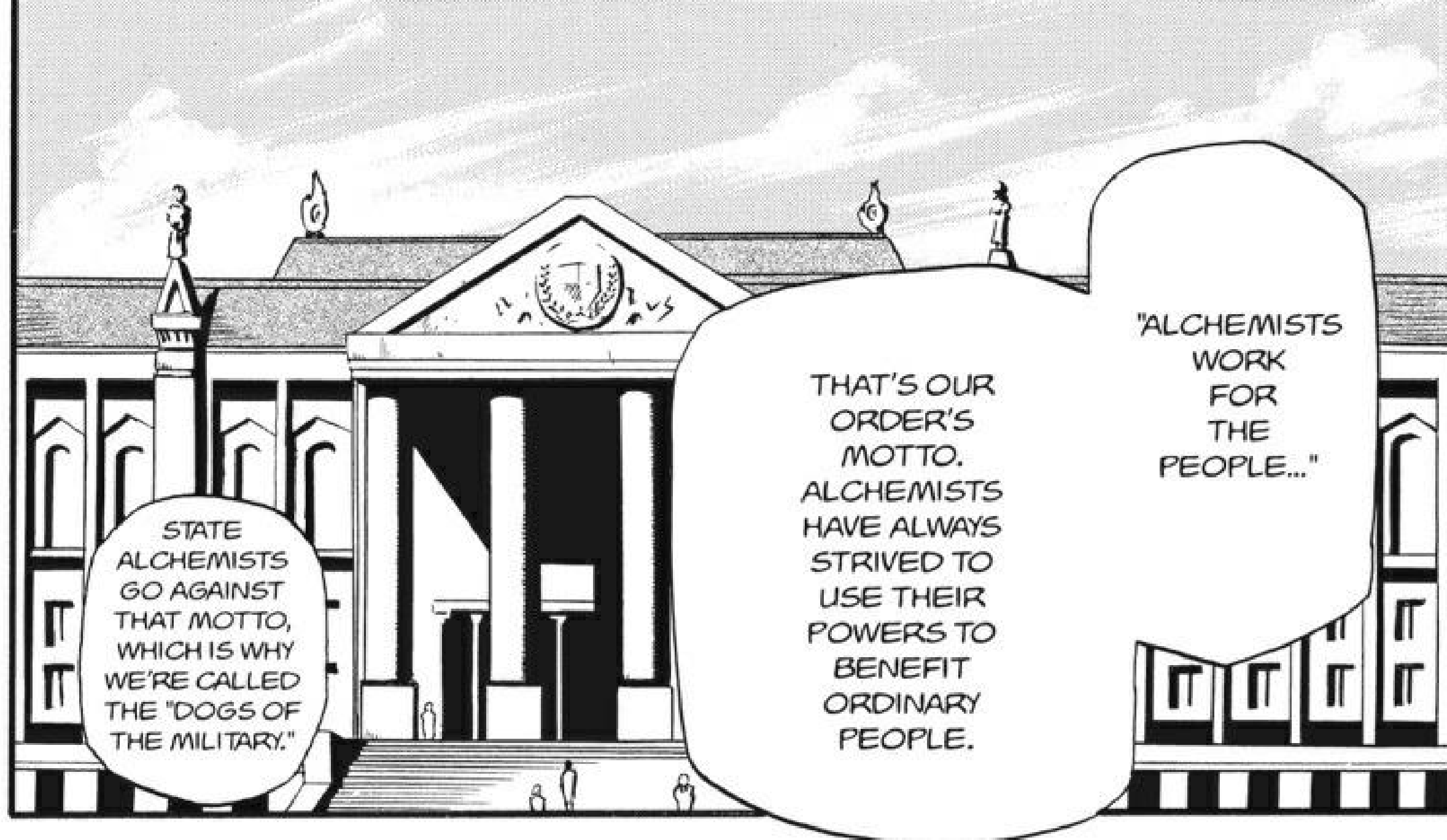








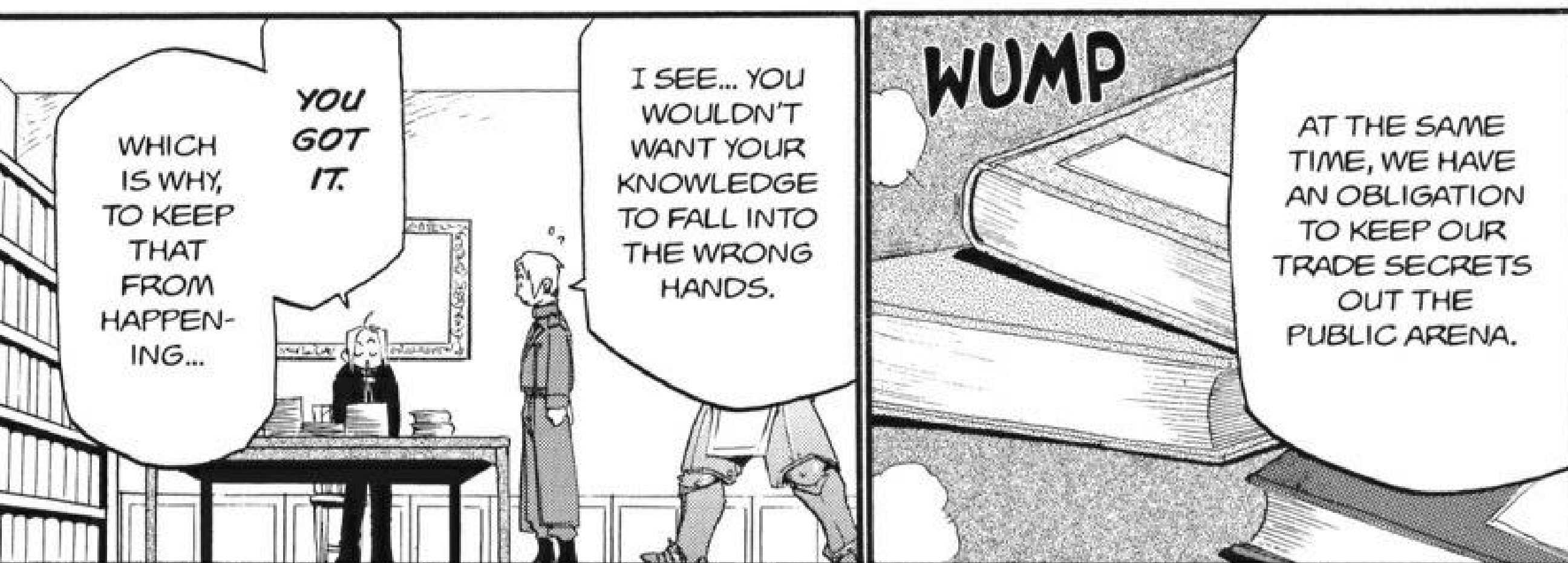




STATE  
ALCHEMISTS  
GO AGAINST  
THAT MOTTO,  
WHICH IS WHY  
WE'RE CALLED  
THE "DOGS OF  
THE MILITARY."

THAT'S OUR  
ORDER'S  
MOTTO.  
ALCHEMISTS  
HAVE ALWAYS  
STRIVED TO  
USE THEIR  
POWERS TO  
BENEFIT  
ORDINARY  
PEOPLE.

"ALCHEMISTS  
WORK  
FOR  
THE  
PEOPLE..."



WHICH  
IS WHY,  
TO KEEP  
THAT  
FROM  
HAPPEN-  
ING...

**YOU  
GOT  
IT.**

I SEE... YOU  
WOULDN'T  
WANT YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE  
TO FALL INTO  
THE WRONG  
HANDS.

**WUMP**

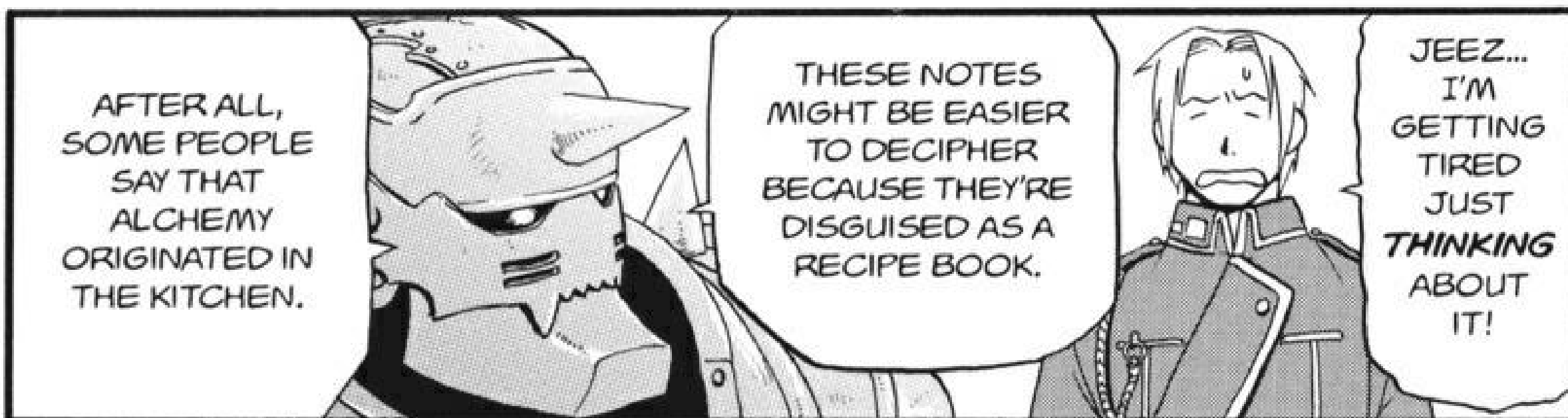
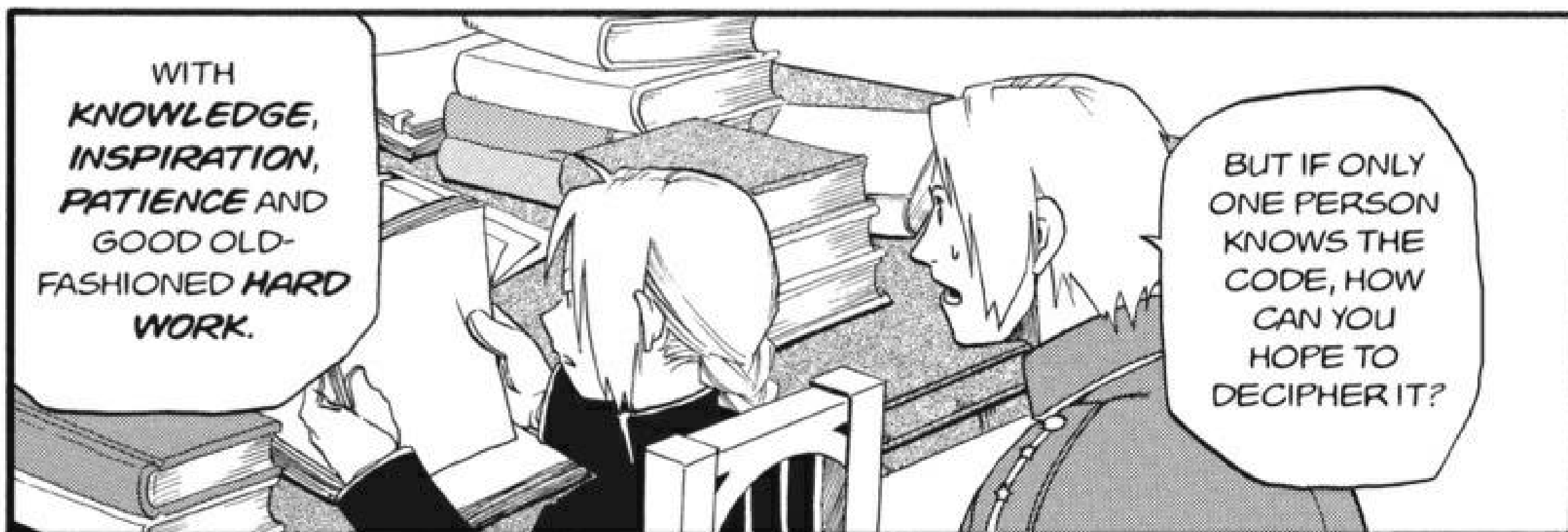
AT THE SAME  
TIME, WE HAVE  
AN OBLIGATION  
TO KEEP OUR  
TRADE SECRETS  
OUT THE  
PUBLIC ARENA.

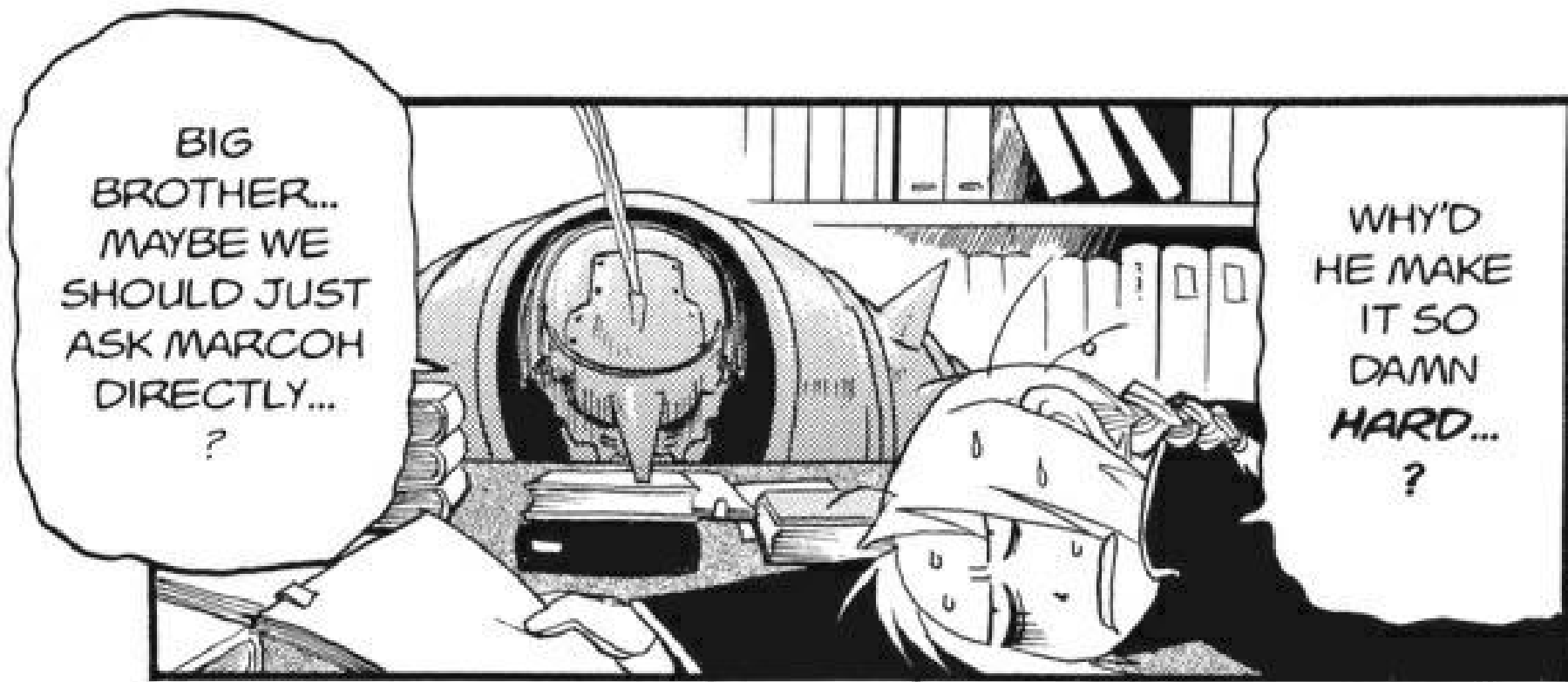


THIS MAY  
LOOK LIKE  
A NORMAL  
RECIPE  
BOOK TO  
MOST  
PEOPLE...

...WE  
ALCHE-  
MISTS  
KEEP  
OUR  
NOTES  
IN  
**CODE.**

...BUT IN REALITY,  
IT IS A **HIGH-  
LEVEL  
ALCHEMICAL  
DOCUMENT**  
WRITTEN IN A  
CODE KNOWN  
ONLY TO THE  
PERSON WHO  
WROTE IT!





BIG BROTHER... MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST ASK MARCOH DIRECTLY... ?

WHY'D HE MAKE IT SO DAMN HARD... ?

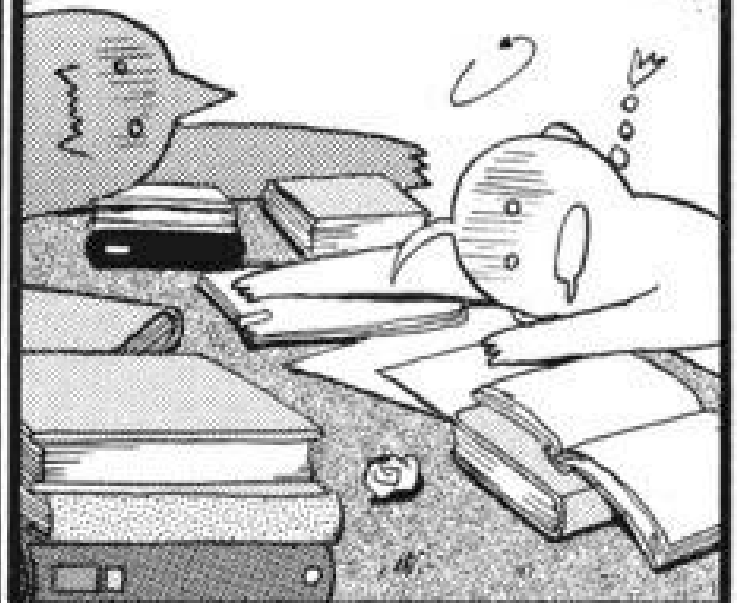
ONE WEEK LATER...

GROOAN



I'M GOING TO DECIPHER IT ON MY OWN, NO MATTER WHAT!!

NO, I SEE THIS AS MARCOH'S CHALLENGE. IT'S LIKE HE'S SAYING, "THOSE WHO CAN'T EVEN BREAK THIS SIMPLE CODE HAVE NO RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!"



UM...

BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE A CLUE...



I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...

THANKS TO YOU, MR. EDWARD, I WAS ABLE TO TRANSFER MY MOTHER TO AN EXCELLENT HOSPITAL!

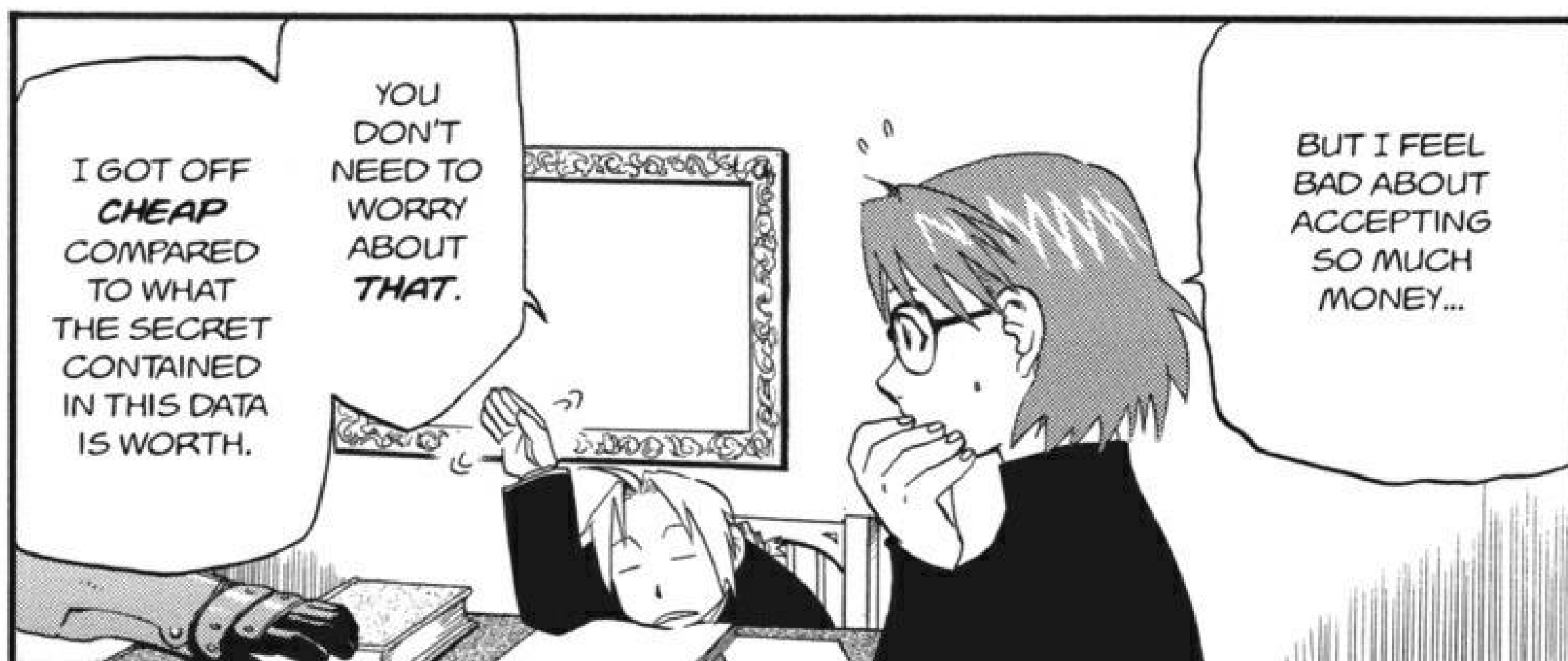
NO SWEAT. IT WAS NOTHING.



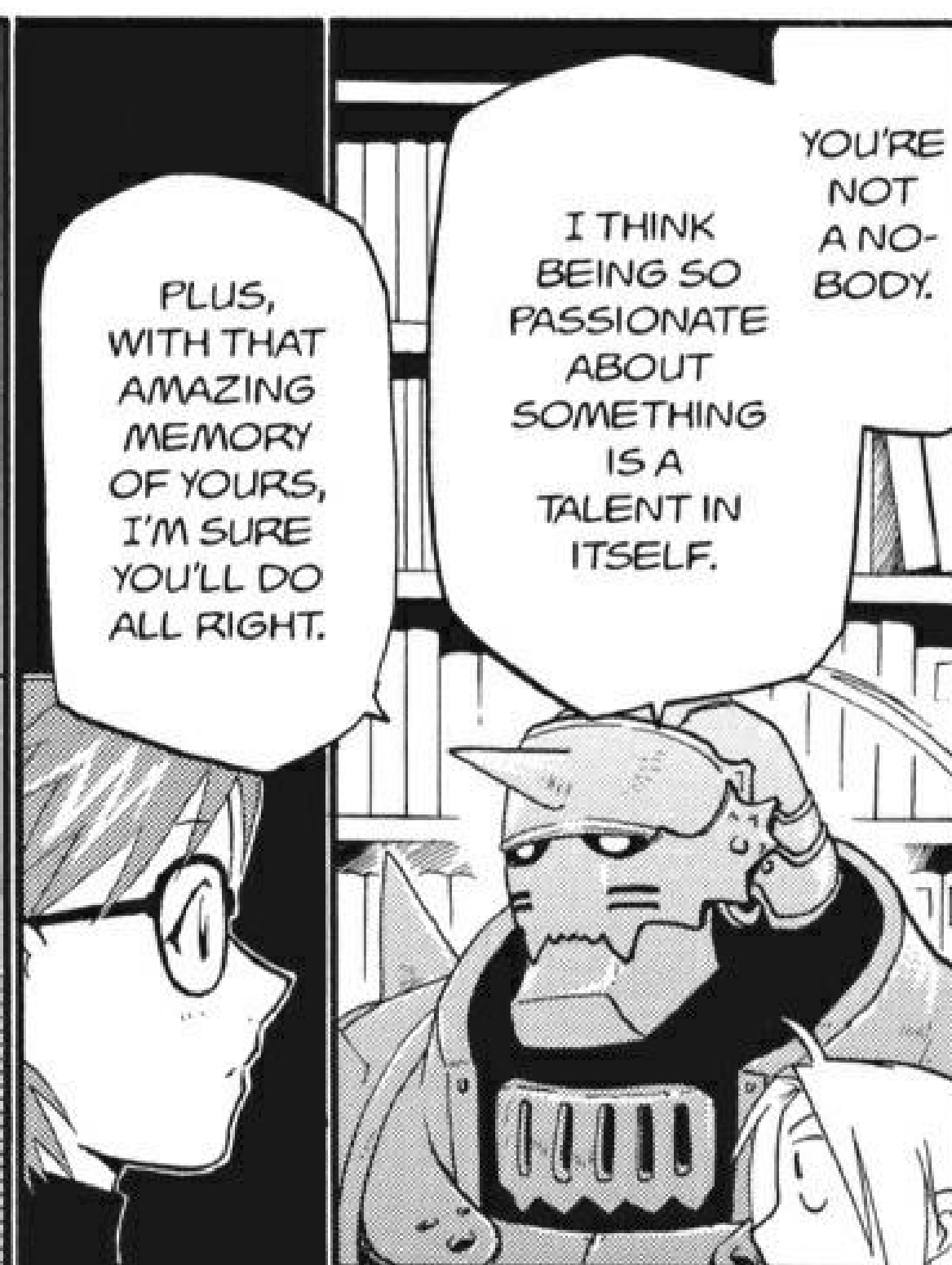
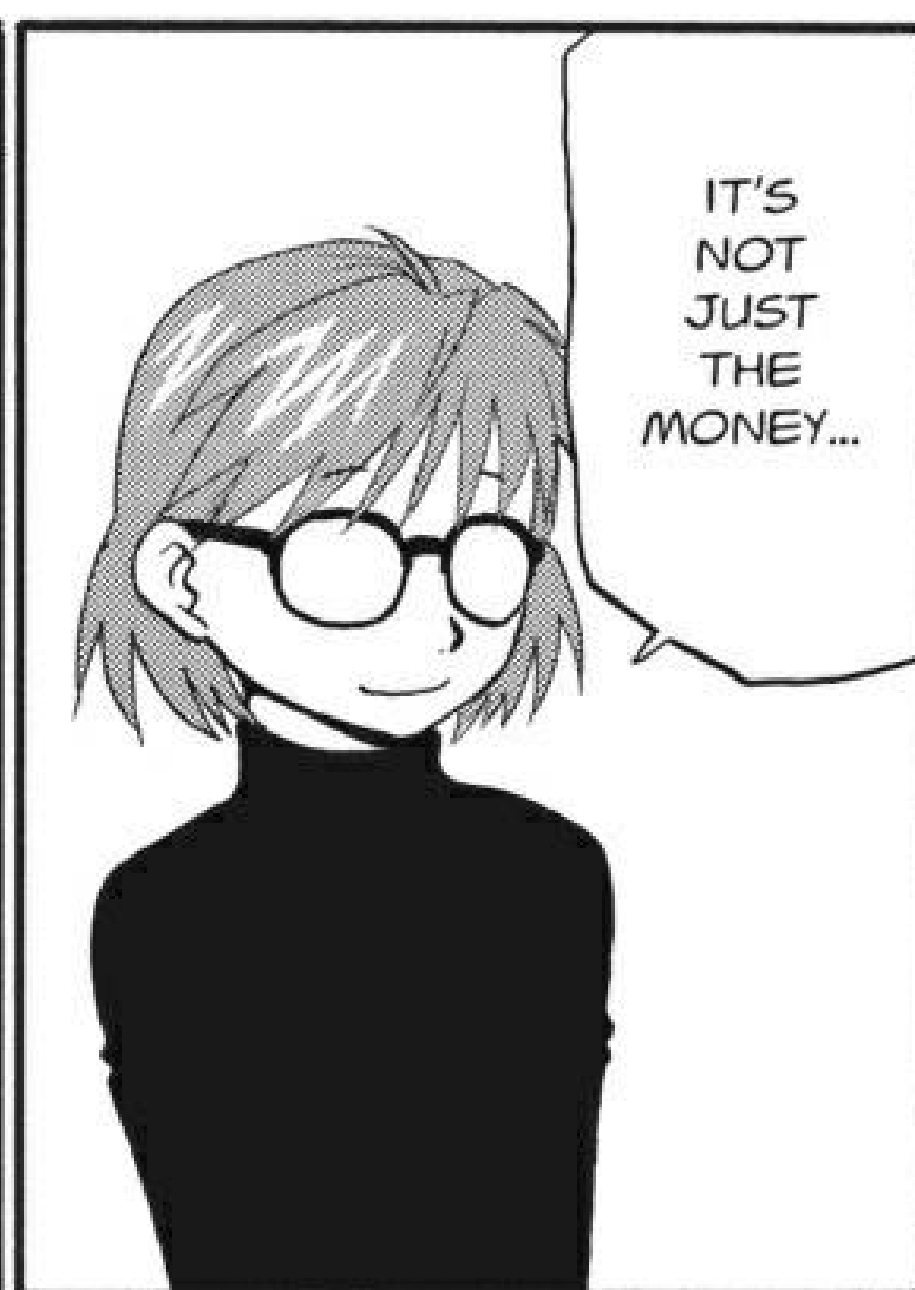
I'D HEARD THAT YOU TWO WOULD BE IN HERE...

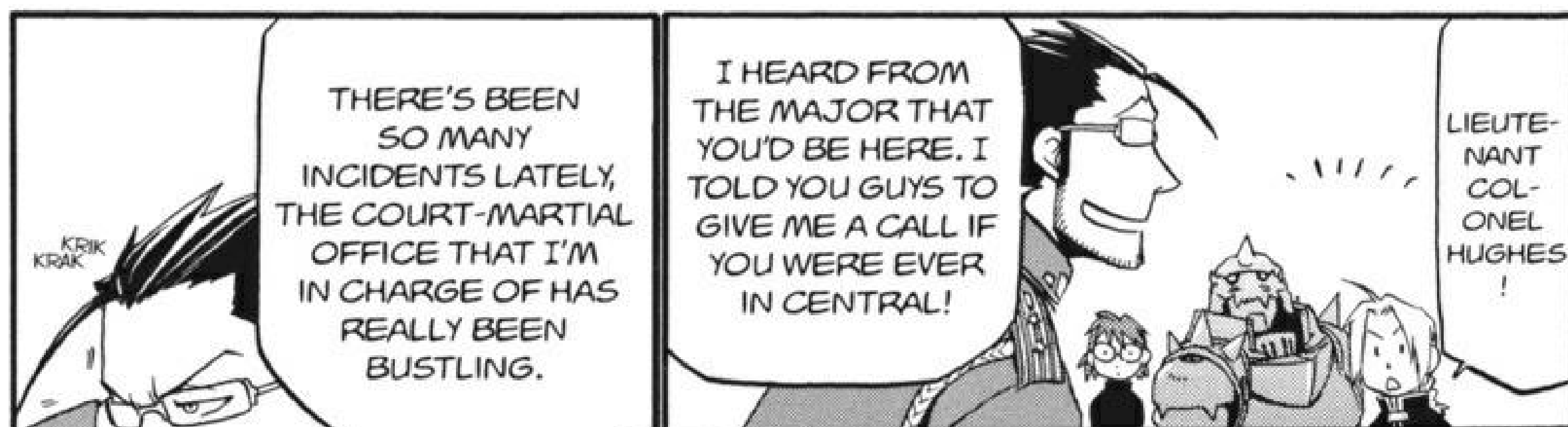
BOW

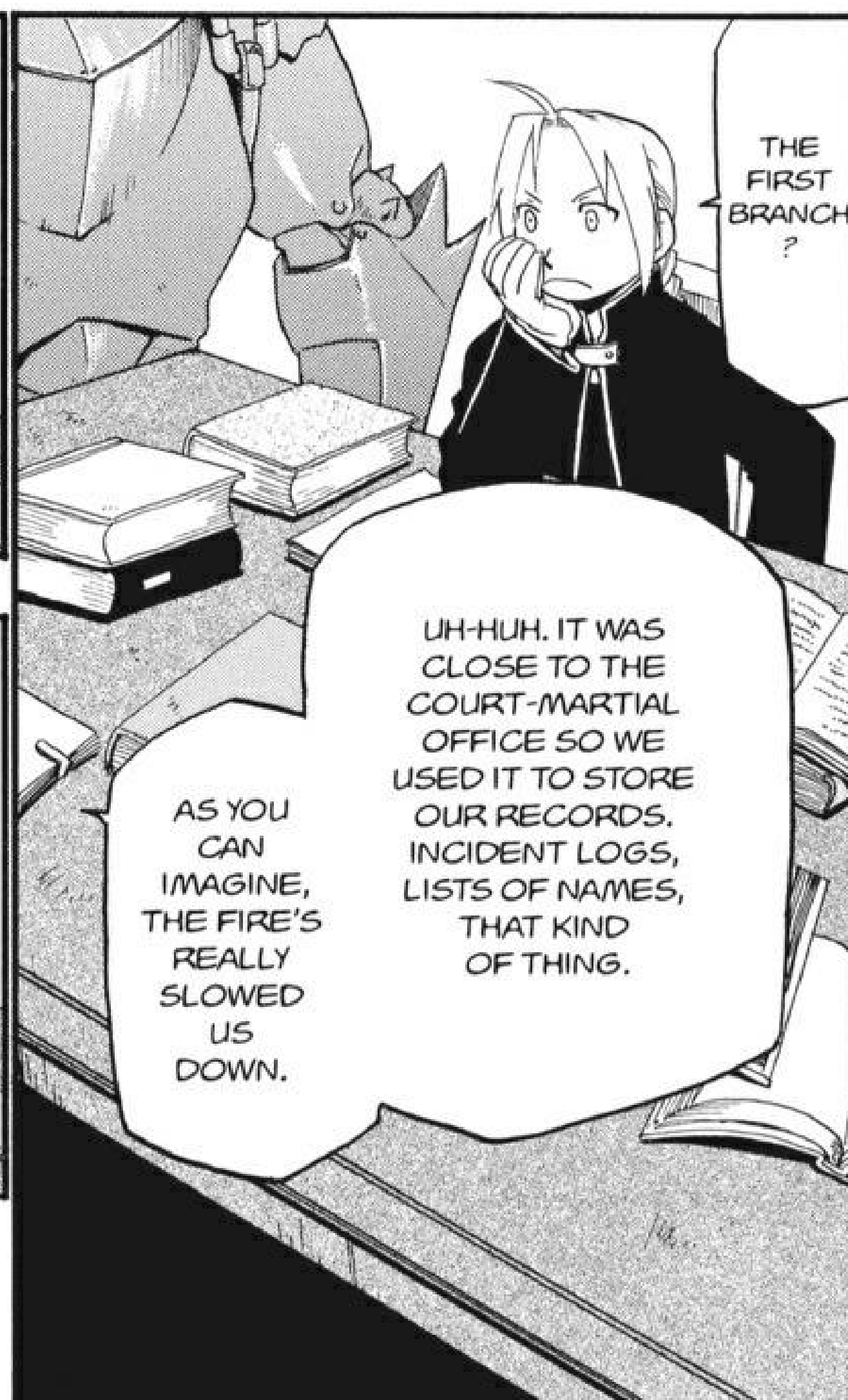
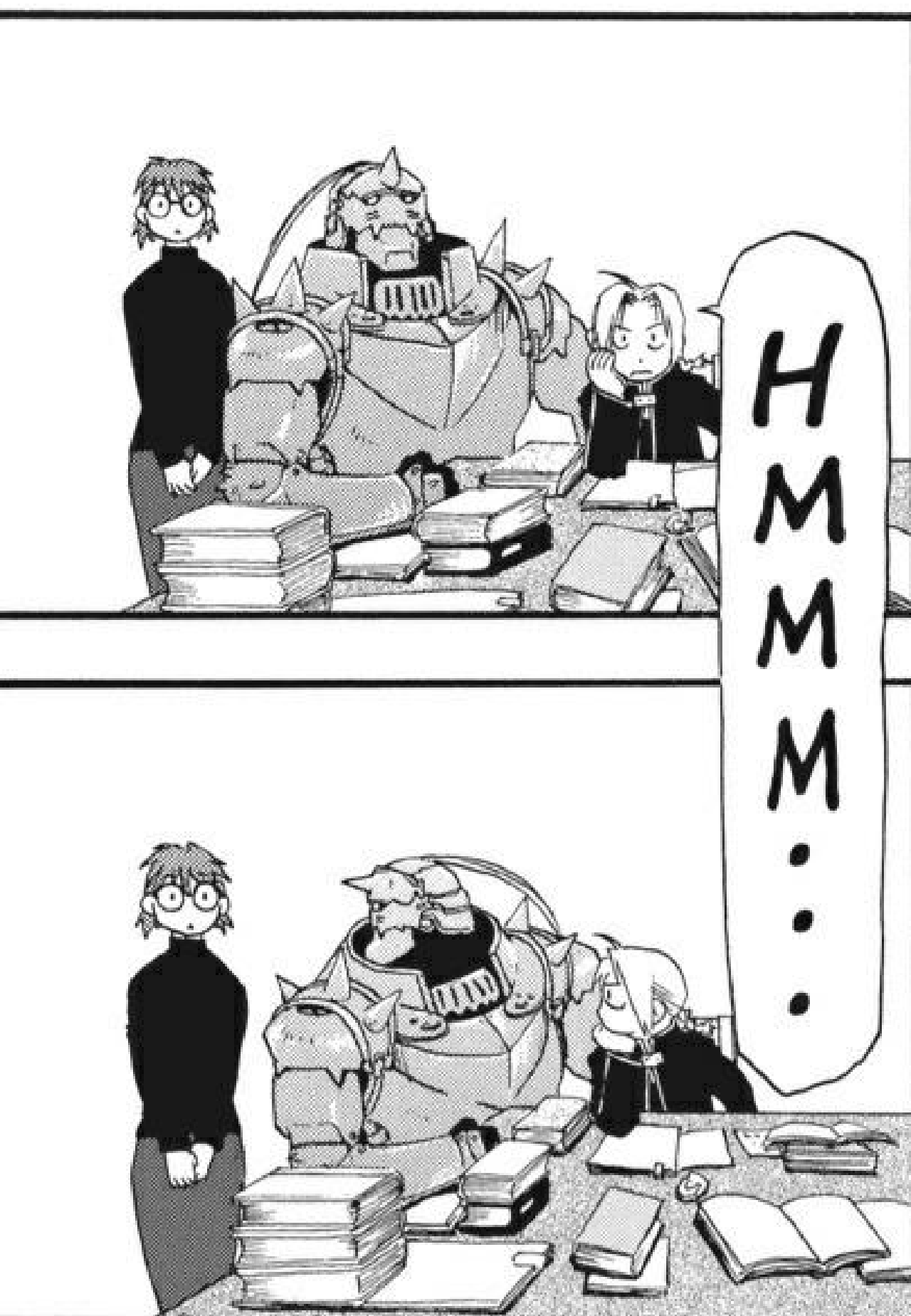
SHEKA... ?













HUH?  
THIS LITTLE  
GIRL HAS  
AN AMAZING  
TALENT  
LIKE *THAT*?!  
SHE COULD  
REALLY HELP  
US OUT!

WHAT'D  
YOU THINK,  
LIEUTENANT-  
COLONEL?  
WE'RE  
TRYING TO  
FIND HER  
A JOB.

WELL IT'S  
TRUE, I *DID*  
READ THE  
MILITARY  
CRIMINAL  
RECORDS...  
AND OF  
COURSE I  
REMEMBER  
THEM...BUT...

WHAAAT  
?!



BUT  
UM...  
REALLY  
?!

HUH  
!?

WE'RE  
GONNA  
GIVE  
YOU A  
GREAT  
SALARY  
!!

LET'S  
GET THE  
PAPERWORK  
OUT OF  
THE WAY,  
RIGHT  
NOW!!



THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH  
FOR  
EVERY-  
THING!!

I'M  
GOING  
TO BE  
MORE  
CONF-  
IDENT IN  
MYSELF  
AND  
TRY MY  
HARDEST  
!

THANK  
YOU  
SO  
MUCH  
!

UH...  
YOU  
GUYS  
!



